



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

THE PRESIDENCY

STATEMENT BY

H.E. DR. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONIAL OF THE

**THIRD (3RD) SESSION OF THE EIGHTH (8TH)
PARLIAMENT**

TUESDAY, 03 FEBRUARY 2026

WINDHOEK, KHOMAS REGION

**Honourable Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila,
Speaker of the National Assembly;**
Right Honourable Dr. Elijah Ngurare, Prime Minister;
**Honourable Lukas Sinimbo Muha, Chairperson of the
National Council;**
His Worship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice;
Honourable Phillipus Katamelo, Deputy Speaker;
**Honourable Emma Muteka Deputy Chairperson of the
National Council;**
**Honourable Sophia Nahango Shaningwa, Secretary-
General of the SWAPO Party;**
**Honourable Immanuel Shawana Nashinge, Leader of
the Official Opposition Party in Parliament;**
Honourable Members of Parliament;
Your Excellences, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

**February is a month of reflection and remembrance in
the history of the democratic and independent
Namibia. During this month, we have lost our Third**

(3rd) President, H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, and our Founding President and Father of the Namibian Nation, H.E. Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, who passed away on the 4th and 8th of February, respectively. In their memory and to honour their legacy, let us observe a moment of silence.

**Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Honourable Members,**

As the New Year unfolds and Honourable Members return from the festive season recess, I join you in this Chamber as you resume your national duties on behalf of the people of the Republic of Namibia. Although it is February, I wish you all a blessed and productive New Year, 2026.

Let me also congratulate and welcome all Honourable Members of the National Council who have joined Parliament following the 2025 Regional and Local Authorities Elections. I want to emphasize that you

have joined this August House with the great responsibility of making laws for this nation.

Honourable Members of Parliament,

The Opening of this Third (3rd) Session of the Eighth (8th) Parliament under the theme: "Enhance the Role of Parliament for Inclusive Development and Participatory Democracy" signifies a renewed sense of responsibility, reflection, and resolve as we carry on the work entrusted to us by our people.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Chairperson,

This Parliament reconvenes amid rising public expectations. Citizens closely follow Parliament's work with keen interest, because it creates laws and influences policies and decisions that impact their lives.

Article 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia bestows legislative authority to Parliament. This mandate assigns you the responsibility and, I paraphrase, *"to enact, amend, and repeal laws; to scrutinize Bills, treaties, and conventions; to approve the national budget; to oversee government performance and hold state institutions accountable; and to debate matters of national importance to the Namibian people."*

This constitutional responsibility carries considerable importance. Laws enacted in this August House serve as the foundation for social order, economic growth, and democratic governance. They establish stability, fairness, and predictability, safeguard fundamental rights, encourage investment and innovation, and ensure disputes are settled peacefully.

Hence, the need for a strong legal framework that strengthens democracy, enhance effective service delivery, and builds public confidence in state institutions.

Honourable Members,

As you discharge this mandate, it is imperative to recognize that Namibia does not legislate in isolation.

We are navigating an increasingly unpredictable global environment, characterized by geopolitical tensions, shifting alliances, and, in some cases, disregard for established norms of international law.

Powerful nations are increasingly asserting their interests in ways that challenge multilateralism and the rules-based international order.

For a small but principled nation like Namibia, whose foreign policy is firmly anchored in multilateralism, respect for international law, and peaceful coexistence, this reality requires foresight and prudence.

The laws crafted in this House must therefore, be strong, principled, and forward-thinking. They must protect our sovereignty, enhance democratic governance, and help Namibia navigate the unstable global landscape, while remaining a trustworthy and responsible member of the international community.

**Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,**

Over the past year, our country has continued to face social and economic challenges, including high unemployment, inequality, and poverty among members of our society.

These challenges strain the social fabric of our society and call for collective effort and shared responsibility from all three branches of government to create positive change in people's lives. They remind us of the core truth, which I often say: "*we are too few to be poor.*"

These domestic challenges are further increased by global economic uncertainty, climate-related pressures, and geopolitical instability. In this context, Parliament's role in creating responsive, inclusive, and protective legislation becomes even more vital. The resilience of our people must be complemented by the foresight of our laws.

When the Eighth (8th) Administration assumed Office on 21 March 2025, we were fully aware of the depth and scale of the economic challenges confronting our nation. Our immediate focus was on stabilization, restoring confidence, and re-energizing growth.

We remain dedicated to expanding production, increasing participation in the economy, and making sure that our people are active contributors, not just spectators, in national development.

The wealth generated in this country should benefit many of our people, not just a few. As Parliament continues to pass legislation, it must ensure that

Namibia's natural resources are used responsibly and sustainably. Adding value to our products should be one of our core principles to stimulate and grow our economy. It should be our future strategic goal to gradually stop extracting our resources without local beneficiation.

Last year, the government called on the public to propose amendments to any of our laws in order to address the needs of our people holistically. Some of the critical proposed amendments from the public include those that will ensure meaningful national benefit from our resources. It is therefore, important that when those amendments are brought to parliament, they should be considered with urgency.

We continue to prioritize agriculture, manufacturing, and the digital economy, where young people leverage technological advancements to create jobs for themselves and their peers, while maintaining fiscal discipline and strengthening revenue collection.

Honourable Members,

Namibia remains an active participant in the regional and global inter-parliamentary forums, including the Southern Africa Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF), the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

These platforms support policy dialogue, legislative harmonization with international standards, capacity building, and parliamentary diplomacy to promote economic transformation, among others.

The insights gained from these forums must inform our domestic legislative efforts and strengthen our dedication to a rules-based international system.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Honourable Members,

Authority in the Republic of Namibia resides with the people, who exercise their sovereignty through democratic institutions and elect their representatives.

Parliament therefore, carries a responsibility not only to legislate but also to uphold the dignity and integrity of this August House, as they are here on behalf of all Namibians.

Robust debate is a cornerstone of our democracy. However, it must always be conducted with respect, discipline, and purpose.

Our people expect their representatives in Parliament to work diligently. They want debates that lead to solutions, laws that improve lives, and oversight that reinforces governance in a timely manner.

Furthermore, the rule of law remains the foundation of peace, justice, and sustainable development.

Therefore, in the Republic of Namibia, no individual, authority, or institution is above the law. Our commitment to accountability, transparency, and the fight against corruption remains strong. This is not about witch-hunt, but about restoring and maintaining public trust in our institutions.

Over the past year, Parliament considered and tabled several Bills, including the Appropriation Bill (Budget), the Regional Councils Amendment Bill, the Land Bill, the Public Enterprises Governance Amendment Bill, the Mental Health Bill, and the Appropriation Amendment Bill (Mid-Term Budget review).

Notices were also issued for the introduction of the Accountants and Auditors Regulatory Authority Bill, the Income Tax Amendment Bill, and the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Amendment Bill.

Regrettably, of all these nine (9) Bills, only two (2) budget-related Bills went through. This is very disappointing because the people of Namibia deserve better services from their elected representatives. It is the hope of our people that such a situation will not repeat itself in the second year of the Eighth (8th) Parliament.

Some parliamentarians may be attempting to score political points through debates. However, I strongly believe majority of our people want to see parliamentarians performing their fundamental constitutional duties of making laws, which will guide and address the actual needs of our citizens.

Honourable Members,

While we may hold diverse political views as elected public representatives, we should be united by a common goal; the prosperity and well-being of the Namibian people. Democracy relies on differing opinions, but it survives through shared commitment to the national interest.

I therefore, call upon all Honourable Members of Parliament, regardless of your political affiliation, to rise above partisanship, to conduct yourselves with dignity, and to restore public confidence in this institution.

Let this Parliament be remembered for constructive engagement, principled leadership, and timely as well as tangible outcomes that improve the quality of life for our people.

**Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,**

The path ahead requires mutual cooperation and a renewed sense of urgency from the three (3) Organs of government. The Executive, for its part, remains dedicated to working closely with Parliament to prioritize sustainable development. We are all leaders and we must lead with passion.

I am confident that together, we can build a Namibia that is prosperous, fair, and just. In this context, I look forward to productive parliamentary results in 2026.

Honourable Members of Parliament,

I now have the Honour to declare the Third (3rd) Session of the Eighth (8th) Parliament Officially Open.

May the Almighty God continue to bless the Republic of Namibia!

I thank you.