



**REMARKS BY RT. HON. JATTA FABAKARY THOMBOG, MP, CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
CPA AFRICA REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, DURING THE OFFICIAL OPENING  
PROGRAM OF THE 90TH CPA AFRICA REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 5<sup>th</sup>  
March, 2026 | SWAKOPMUND HOTEL AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE,  
SWAKOPMUND, NAMIBIA**

---

Her Excellency Lucia Witbooi  
**Vice President of the Republic of Namibia,**

Hon. Natalia / Goagoses  
**Governor of Erongo Region**

Hon. Lukas Sinimbo Muha, MP.  
**Chairperson of the National Council of Namibia (Host Speaker) and Southern  
Africa Regional Representative of the CPA Africa Region**

Rt. Hon. Sameer Suleman, MP.  
**Speaker of the Parliament of Malawi and President of the CPA Africa Region,**

Hon. Philipus Katamelolo Wido, MP.  
**Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia,**

Hon. Enos Assiimwe, MP, (Uganda)  
**Treasurer CPA Africa Region,**

Hon. Members of the Executive Committee,

**Mr. Daniel Eliufoo**  
Assistant Regional Secretary

Distinguished Delegates and Accompanying Officials,

Members of the Press Present,

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

You know, as I stand here looking out at this room, surrounded by colleagues and friends from across our great continent, I cannot help but feel a deep sense of gratitude. It is a profound honour and a privilege to stand before you today for the first time as the newly elected Chairperson of the CPA Africa Region Executive Committee to welcome you to the official opening of our 90<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting.

We gather in this beautiful coastal town of Swakopmund, a place where the Atlantic Ocean meets the Namib Desert. There is something poetic about this setting, isn't there? Two powerful forces coming together in harmony. That is exactly what we hope to achieve here the confluence of our diverse ideas, experiences, and perspectives, united in our common purpose.

I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to our wonderful hosts, the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia. Under the distinguished leadership of Hon. Dr. Saara Kuugogelwa-Amadhila, Speaker of the National Assembly, and my brother Hon. Lukas Sinimbo Muha, Chairperson of the National Council, we have been welcomed with such warmth and generosity. The beauty of your nation is only surpassed by the hospitality of its people, and for that, my friends, we are truly thankful.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the hardworking staff of the Namibian Parliament under the stewardship of Adv. Tousy Namiseb, Secretary of the National Council. To you and your team thank you. Thank you for the meticulous planning, for the warm smiles, and for the excellent facilities you have put at our disposal. We feel at home here.

And speaking of hard work I would be remiss if I did not mention our backbone, the Regional Secretariat. Mr. Daniel Eliufoo and your entire team, would you please stand so we can see you? (Pause) These are the people who work tirelessly behind the scenes often late into the night, away from their families to ensure that everything runs smoothly for us. They coordinate, they plan, they solve problems before we even know they exist. On behalf of all of us, I want to say thank you. Thank you for your dedication, your passion, and your commitment to the CPA Africa Region. We see you, we appreciate you and we could not do this without you.

Your Excellency, Madam Vice President, your presence here today means more than you might know. It sends a powerful message about how much Namibia values parliamentary democracy and regional cooperation. We are deeply

honoured by your attendance, and we thank you for your continued support of our shared vision.

As I stand here, my mind wanders back to a moment during our 89<sup>th</sup> EXCO Meeting, which was hosted in my beloved country, The Gambia. I remember it like it was yesterday. My colleague, Hon. Lukas Sinimbo Muha, stood before us and, with such conviction and passion, told us that Namibia was ready to host this gathering. He spoke about his nation's commitment to the ideals of the CPA, and you could feel the pride in his voice.

Today, as I look around this room and see the excellent arrangements, the warm hospitality, and the genuine spirit of collaboration, I am witnessing firsthand the truthfulness of his words. Hon. Muha, my brother, you made a promise on behalf of your nation and you have delivered beyond measure. Your word is your bond, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for turning that promise into this beautiful reality.

Honourable Members, this meeting is so much more than just another item on our calendar. It is a continuation of our shared journey a journey towards stronger democracies, better governance and a brighter future for the people we serve. As a newly elected Executive Committee, we carry a significant responsibility on our shoulders. Our focus will be to build on the strong foundation laid by those who came before us. We will look ahead to our upcoming Annual Regional Conference, engage in honest and robust dialogue, formulate thoughtful policy proposals, and ensure that our collective efforts truly make a difference across our beloved continent.

Before I conclude, if you will permit me, I would like to share a special message.

Through Rt. Hon. Sameer Suleman, MP, President of the CPA Africa Region and Speaker of the Parliament of Malawi, I ask that we extend the CPA Africa Region's warmest regards and a message of deep admiration to Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the President of the Republic of Namibia.

Your Excellency, Madam President, we see what you are doing. We see the bold decisions you are making to strengthen Namibia's economy and create opportunities for your people. The decision to make tertiary education 100% subsidized by the government starting this year that is not just policy, that is a gift to future generations. It says to every young Namibian your dreams matter, and your government believes in you.

We have also taken note of the National Youth Development Fund half a billion Namibian dollars dedicated to empowering young entrepreneurs. Over N\$62 million already disbursed, 140 projects supported, more than 700 jobs created.

These are not just numbers on a page. These are young people with hope in their eyes, families with bread on their tables, and communities being transformed.

And your strategic shift towards economic diplomacy ensuring that international partnerships deliver real, tangible benefits for Namibia in trade, investment, and skills development is a masterstroke. It positions your nation not as a spectator, but as a competitive player on the global stage.

Madam President, your leadership is a beacon. It shows us what is possible when leaders dedicate themselves to the greater good. It inspires all of us, and it reinforces the strength we have when we work together within the Commonwealth.

Once again, I thank the Parliament of Namibia for hosting us so beautifully. I thank each and every one of you for travelling here, for bringing your wisdom and your perspectives, and for your commitment to this family we call the CPA Africa Region.

I look forward to our today's EXCO the conversations, the debates, the laughter, and the friendships renewed. Let us make this meeting productive, impactful, and worthy of the people we represent.

I thank you.