

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



STATEMENT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY DR. NANGOLO MBUMBA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF CABINET FOR THE
YEAR 2024
STATE HOUSE
WINDHOEK

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024

Check against delivery

- **Your Excellency, Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Vice President;**
- **Right Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister;**
- **Honourable John Mutorua, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Transport;**
- **Comrade Sophia Nahango Shaningwa, Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;**
- **Honourable Ministers;**
- **Secretary to the Cabinet**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Good morning.

1. **I have the honour to welcome you all to this first Cabinet Meeting of 2024, which is taking place against the backdrop of the passing of our beloved President, H.E Dr. Hage G. Geingob. Our country has lost a visionary and**

revolutionary leader, whose footprints will remain indelible in the annals of our country's history. As members of Cabinet, let us pick up where he left and take our country forward. This is a difficult and sad time for the widow and children, and our thoughts are with them. It is also a difficult time for you, as Cabinet Members and the entire nation, but we must be strong and forge ahead without faltering. That is what our President Dr Geingob would have wanted us to do!

- 2. This year is the Year of Expectations; the Year of Elections, in which the citizens of the Namibian House will elect the next leadership to lead the nation for the next five years. As we navigate through the challenges of this year, our citizens have higher and clearer expectations of us. We have to implement**

Government plans and programs to deliver quality public services to our people.

- 3. As we commence with the work of Cabinet, we should be mindful that the people of Namibia have entrusted us with the mandate, to grow the economy, to improve their livelihoods and enhance inclusive prosperity for all our citizens in the Namibian House, irrespective of their ethnic origin, race and gender. I encourage all Namibians to hold hands and pull together in the same direction towards national unity, peace and stability which are the prerequisites for meaningful socio-economic development.**

- 4. Over the past few years, our country has faced unprecedented challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic and devastating droughts which negatively affected the growth of our economy, thereby constraining our national**

budget. However, I must also indicate that our collective efforts, as a nation, during the past years aimed at achieving economic recovery, inclusive growth and shared prosperity under the Harambee Prosperity Plan I and II, have born the desired results. Our country is back on the positive trajectory of economic recovery in various sectors, particularly agriculture, mining, fisheries, tourism, oil and gas and green energy.

- 5. I am therefore urging the responsible Government Ministries in the sectors that I have just mentioned to start implementing all pending programmes to fast-track economic development and create employment opportunities for our people, particularly the youth.**

**Your Excellency, Comrade Vice President;
Right Honourable Prime Minister;
Honourable Cabinet Members:**

- 6. Recently, Namibia's economic growth surpassed the pre-pandemic level, with a registered growth of 7.2 percent in the third (3) quarter of 2023. Furthermore, according to the Bank of Namibia's Economic Outlook, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2024 is projected to grow to 3.4 percent.**
- 7. Over the festive season, many of us directly witnessed that Namibia experienced one of the best tourist inflows of domestic, international and regional tourists, with large numbers coming from the SADC region.**
- 8. On the energy front, Green Hydrogen is set to play a major role in the transformation of the**

Namibian economy. Its development is expected to stimulate further growth in adjacent industries, including logistics, agriculture and sustainable manufacturing. This year, three Green Hydrogen pilot projects are due to start operations.

- 9. We are also expecting the final announcements on the Total Energies' Venus-1, Shell's Graff-1 and Jonker-IX oil blocks. We are informed that these three blocks are having a combined estimate of 2, 5 billion barrels of oil.**

- 10. Recently Galp Energeia of Portugal, Custos Energy and NAMCOR also announced new oil discoveries in the Mopane 2X well. We want Namibians to actively participate and benefit from the unfolding economic boom. The Welwitschia Sovereign Wealth Fund that we established to benefit our citizens, including**

generations to come will play a vital role in ensuring inter-generational equity.

- 11. Some of our citizens have expressed concerns, regarding corruption in the budding energy sector. Let me assure all Namibians that in line with our Government's clear resolve to promote accountability and transparency, we will continue to strengthen the policy measures aimed to fight against corruption.**

- 12. Therefore, I would like to call upon our law enforcement agencies, NAMPOL, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Financial Intelligence Centre, the Judiciary, Parliament, the media, and all our citizens to continue to play their respective roles to keep Namibia transparent and corruption free. Maintaining a conducive environment in which accountability and transparency thrive, to prevent corruption**

from taking root, is a patriotic obligation for all of us.

- 13. During the brief tenure of my Presidency, I intend to fully uphold the Social Contract that our late President has entered into until March 2025, with the Namibian people. Likewise, I expect you, as Cabinet Ministers to support me in this regard and also to uphold the Social Contract until the end of our tenure in office. We should therefore serve the interests of all the people of Namibia, and prioritize the timely execution of projects and programmes.**

- 14. It is however worth noting that despite our advances and good economic prospects, much needs to be done. Consequently, as individual Ministers should return to your offices and redouble efforts in conjunction with your deputies, Executive Directors and staff, to**

ensure that all issues and tasks in your Ministries are addressed and concluded without delay.

15. In this context, Comrade Prime Minister, I charge you to regularly follow-up with the Ministers and through the Secretary to the Cabinet, with the Executive Directors to check on those issues that are outstanding, and report directly to me, so that we call our public servants to account for their performances.

16. I wish you a productive and fruitful Year in which we will continue, through hard work, to successfully serve and meet the expectations of all the Namibian people.

17. With these few words, I have the honour to declare that, though in the middle of a dark cloud over our nation, the Executive arm of

Government has officially commenced its business.

Thank you.