

# **REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR.  
NANGOLO MBUMBA, PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE GRADUATION CEREMONY OF THE POLICE  
BASIC TRAINING COURSE 1 OF THE 2023/24  
FINANCIAL YEAR**

**MAY 6, 2024**

**INDEPENDENCE STADIUM, OSHAKATI  
OSHANA REGION**

*Check against delivery*

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Honourable John Mutorwa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Works and Transport;**
- **Honourable Dr. Albert Kawana, Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security;**
- **All other Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;**
- **All Members of Parliament Present;**
- **Honourable Elia Irimari, Oshana Regional Governor and all other Regional Governors present;**
- **Distinguished Lieutenant General Joseph Shikongo, Inspector-General of the Namibian Police, and distinguished Service Chiefs of the NDF, Navy, Air-force and Prisons;**
- **Commissioner-General Arnaldo Manuel Carlos, Chief of Angola Police Force;**
- **Inspector-General Graphel Musamba, Chief of Zambia Police Service;**

- **Lieutenant General Sehlahle Fannie Masemola, National Police Commissioner of South African Police Service;**
- **Representative of the National Commissioner of the Royal Eswatini Police Service; Senior Deputy National Commissioner Mr. Vusi Manoma Masango;**
- **Representative of the Acting Commissioner of Botswana Police Service; Deputy Commissioner of Police Operations, Mr. Solomon Mantswe;**
- **Representative of the Commissioner-General of the Zimbabwe Republic Police Service; Deputy Commissioner General Lorraine Chipato;**
- **Gaob Immanuel /Gaseb, Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders in Namibia and all respected traditional leaders and revered spiritual leaders present;**
- **Your Worship Leonard Hango, Mayor of Oshakati Town; and other Mayors here present;**

- **Regional and Local Authority Councilors present;**
- **Senior Government officials;**
- **Graduates;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. **A very good morning to you all.**
2. **I am pleased to be here to officiate at the Graduation ceremony of the Police Basic Training Course of 2023/24 which is themed, “Bravery is not the absence of fear but action in the face of fear”.**
3. **Allow me to welcome our distinguished guests from the SADC Region including the Republics of Angola, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and The Kingdom of Eswatini, for gracing this auspicious occasion with their presence.**

**Namibia is a child of Pan-African and international solidarity. It is against this background that we will forever be grateful for the support we received from our African Brothers and Sisters and the international community to attain our independence. Recently, we received invaluable support from some of our SADC sister countries which enabled us to give our late President His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob a fitting and dignified farewell. Therefore, please feel at home because Namibia is also your home.**

- 4. Displaying bravery and taking decisive action in the face of fear speaks to the ideals that were inculcated amongst the ranks of Namibian freedom fighters, whose bravery and action while facing a formidable enemy paved the way towards the liberation of our country and people.**

**Today, as citizens who enjoy the fruits of freedom, justice and equality, we depend on new heroes and heroines in the form of our uniformed men and women to ensure that the foundations put in place by the founders of our constitution, namely peace, unity, stability, reconciliation and the Rule of Law, remain intact.**

- 5. Thanks to the stellar work of our security cluster, Namibia is one of the countries on the African Continent which is respected, and indeed admired for upholding the fundamental human rights and freedoms of its citizens.**

**Director of Ceremonies;**

- 6. This graduation comes at an opportune time as we seek to increase the number of our police officers.**

**Today we are welcoming 1060 graduates consisting of 679 males and 381 females. This will enable the police to open several new police stations and police posts across the country.**

- 7. The recruitment of these graduates into the Namibian Police Force will strengthen our police operations nationwide as some will be posted to guard our borders to bolster security and ensure that criminal elements are prevented from entering our country and disturbing the peace and stability we continue to enjoy and cherish.**
- 8. Therefore, I am pleased to note that our Government has availed resources for the Namibian Police Force to have another recruitment in the 2024/2025 financial year, as directed by our beloved late President Dr. Hage G. Geingob during his State of the Nation Address in 2023.**

**Dear Esteemed Graduates;**

- 9. Peace, safety and security are integral constituents for the development of a nation and the wellbeing of its citizens. Violence, unrest and crime are impediments to our developmental objectives and hence, as police officers, you are not only the guardians of our peace and security but also key role players in our economic development. For these reasons, I would like to congratulate each and every one of you for successfully completing the Police Basic Training Course. Today you, are joining a very important Government organization that strives to improve the personal safety and national security of the Namibian nation. Take pride in your profession and uphold the reputation of the Namibian Police Force as brave, patriotic, disciplined and impartial enforcers of the Namibian laws.**



**I have no doubt that you will deliver and carry out your duties to the best of your ability.**

- 10. Since independence, Namibia has established an enviable reputation as a haven of peace and security. It is a country in which citizens and visitors can live, work and play without fear and anxiety. Unfortunately, of late, we are witnessing a rise in serious crimes such as murder, armed robberies, burglaries, assaults, drug abuse, rape and violence against women and children. As new graduates, you must swiftly suppress and prevent crime and lawlessness from gaining a foothold in our society. You should ensure that criminal elements do not destroy what our heroes and heroines fought and died for. As true patriots, you should cherish the country we call home and protect its people by preventing criminals from finding rest, peace or shelter in any corner of Namibia.**

**Crime is an enemy of our people, therefore root it out wherever it shows its ugly head in our country.**

**11. Furthermore, in the Year of Expectations and Elections, you are called upon to remain vigilant at all times so that once more, Namibians can go to the polls and partake in free, fair and democratic elections as we are used to since our independence.**

**12. At this juncture, allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Commanders of the Ruben "Danger" Ashipala and Pius Joseph Kaundu Police Training Centres, and the entire management and instructors, for ensuring that our graduates are well trained to international standards of professional police officers.**

- 13. Let me express my appreciation for the warm working relationship we share with our SADC colleagues. This collaboration means a lot to us, and symbolizes the excellent SADC family relations among our countries. I would like to encourage you to continue this collaboration and thereby curb cross border crimes amongst SADC countries.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, Dear Esteemed Graduates;**

- 14. In conclusion, today we celebrate not only your achievements as graduates but also the future you represent. You are the sentinels that will guard our Namibian House. You carry the hopes and dreams of a better and safer Namibian society on your shoulders.**

**As you embark on your new journey, we pledge our unwavering support, trusting that you will make us proud by forming a formidable defense against crime thereby enabling the people of this nation to continue their march towards a more safe, peaceful and prosperous future.**

- 15. I now have the honour and privilege to declare the Police Basic Training Course Intake, for 2023/24 officially closed.**
- 16. I thank you.**