

THE PRESIDENCY NEWSLETTER



Volume 1 | May 2025



2025 – ONE HEART – ONE MIND

@NamibianPresidency



Contents

- 4** Namibia Celebrates 35th Independence Day Anniversary
- 6** Opening of Cabinet by President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah
- 8** Energy, Education, and Economic Growth at Centre of Namibia-Russia Talks
- 10** President Nandi-Ndaitwah Appoints Regional Governors
- 12** President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Welcomes IOC President Dr. Kirsty Coventry



Cover:

The official portrait of the of the fifth President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaituwa

Contributors:

Herman Kangootui
Dennis Shikwambi
Katrina Jacob

Photography:

Absai Haiduwa
Immanuel Thomas

Design & Layout:

Nghilifavali Iileka

Editor:

Festus Nafuka (PhD.)



Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the electronic newsletter from the Office of the President, under the visionary and esteemed leadership of H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Namibia's fifth President. This publication marks a significant milestone in our nation's history as we embark on a transformative journey guided by the principle of "One Heart, One Mind"; we are reminded of our collective strength and unity as a nation. This ethos guides us in fostering collaboration among all stakeholders in pursuit of national goals.

In this edition, we highlight several key stories that reflect the priorities and initiatives of the eighth administration. As we reflect on momentous events, this newsletter aims to provide you with insights into the Presidency's priorities and achievements. Furthermore, President Nandi-Ndaitwah's commitment to "Not Business as Usual" signifies a transformative approach to governance—one that prioritises innovation, inclusivity, quality service delivery, and accountability, among other principles of the SWAPO Party Manifesto Implementation Plan.

As we embark on this new chapter in our nation's history, we invite you to engage as we showcase the broad spectrum of noteworthy local, regional, and global involvements and undertakings executed by the Presidency. Let us embrace her call for unity: One Heart, One Mind. Together, we can build a prosperous Namibia where every citizen has the opportunity to thrive.

Enjoy reading, and stay tuned for future editions as we continue to document the activities and achievements of the Presidency.

Dr Festus I Nafuka

Chief Editor: Speech Writing and Research

Namibia Celebrates 35th Independence Day Anniversary

By Herman Kangootui



Former President H.E. Nangolo Mbumba emphasised that 21 March 2025 is the day on which we commemorate our 35th Independence Anniversary and it is also the day on which we will witness one of Namibia's foremost daughters breaking through the glass ceiling.

Former President Mbumba stated this when delivering his statement at the occasion of the 35th Independence Day Anniversary in Windhoek, on 21 March 2025. That day served as his last day in Office as the President of the Republic of Namibia.

"Today marks the final occasion on which I will say goodbye to you, the beautiful Namibian people, as President. I have already said goodbyes to the Cabinet, Parliament, my staff and all civil servants," President Mbumba stated.

Furthermore, the Former President urged all and sundry to support President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and wished her good health, strength and wisdom during her tenure.

President Mbumba added: *"Now, as we turn the last page of this final chapter, we look forward to the beginning of a new chapter—a chapter of hope, promise and prosperity. The Chapter of Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. Let us all support her and wish her good health, strength and wisdom!"*

The Former President stressed the importance and monumentality of the day in the history of the country. *"It has been a long time coming; it has been a long journey filled with trials and tribulations, but just as our struggle for independence, spearheaded by the gallant sons and daughters of Namibia, has paid dividends, likewise, the struggle for gender justice, spearheaded by the brave women of Namibia and their allies across the international community, is paying dividends as we await to swear in our first female President of the Republic of Namibia,"* H.E. Mbumba stated.

In paying tribute to those who lost their lives during the fight for the liberation of the country, H.E. Mbumba stated that what we are celebrating today would not be possible without the invaluable sacrifices that were



made by brave Namibian men and women who selflessly paid the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that freedom and independence become a reality for all Namibians.

"Their blood waters the foundations of our democracy, and it waters the pillars of Unity, Liberty and Justice," stated H.E. Mbumba.

Thanking his predecessors, H.E. Mbumba stated that it would be remiss of him not to mention his extraordinary personality, whose formidable leadership is primarily responsible for ensuring that Namibia is today a paragon of unity, peace, and stability.

"I speak of no other person than His Excellency Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, Founding President of Namibia and Leader of the Namibian Revolution. In the same vein, let me also laud the magnificent leadership of His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, second President of the Republic of Namibia, and my late brother, His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, third President of the Republic of Namibia," H.E. Mbumba stated.

When it comes to his tenure, the Former President stated that 'to say that my tenure has been eventful would be an understatement.'

"From my first day in Office to this very moment, it feels like I never had a chance to catch my breath. Nevertheless, I would like to state that being President of

the Republic of Namibia has been the greatest honour ever bestowed upon me," H.E. Mbumba stated.

The Former President thanked God for his protection, love and grace throughout his tenure, as well as his loving wife, Madam Sustjie Nashili Mbumba, his rock, his number one supporter, and his soulmate.

In addition, the Former President thanked Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, who was our guest of honour during this anniversary.

To the men and women in uniform, H.E. Mbumba stated: *"Thank you to all the uniformed services, the men and women whose daily task it is to keep our country and people safe and secure both from external and internal threats. It was an honour to be your Commander-in-Chief."*

As he bids farewell, the Former President thanked the Namibian people, the ultimate sovereigns, our bosses. *"Thank you for your support and understanding. Wherever I travelled across the country, I was greeted with cheers, smiles, and gestures of goodwill. I am humbled and proud at the same time to have been your President. I take my hat off to all of you,"* H.E. Mbumba stated.

Opening of Cabinet by President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

By Dennis Shikwambi



Delivering her maiden speech on the occasion of the Opening of the First Cabinet Meeting of the 8th Administration, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah informed Cabinet members that Namibian people have high expectations from them, noting that by accepting their appointments, they have made commitments to serve our people under this administration.

The President further advised the members of Cabinet to be guided by the Cabinet handbook when carrying out their Ministerial and national duties in ensuring that their conduct is ethical and beyond reproach.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah emphasised that the day marks

the beginning of the first steps in an important but long five-year journey; they must walk together as a team, and it was her wish that they finish this journey together with all the required success.

"The Namibian people have spoken through their votes, and they are calling on us to efficiently deliver services based on the promises we made in the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto for the years 2025–2030, which is a promise we made to the Namibian people, and the commitments contained in it are now the binding contract we have signed with our citizens, which must be implemented at all costs, without deviating from it, by the entire team. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Cabinet, the Executive and the

Government as a whole to fulfil the promises we made to improve the wellbeing of our people," stated President Nandi-Ndaitwah.

The President also stressed that performances will be evaluated regularly starting with the next three months on the basis of the key performance indicators in their terms of reference in order to monitor implementation progress on all projects, she informed.

The President further stated that Namibians, especially the youth, men and women, need employment opportunities, housing and access to improved services in the social and economic clusters.

"There is a need for the education

system to be tailor-made for purpose in order to empower our young people. Our development has to be supported by evidence research outcomes. Our health sector must be responsive to the growing needs of our citizens, and every Namibian deserves the best available health service wherever they are in this country,” President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

The President also emphasised that the agricultural and mining sectors must be strengthened and transformed in order to ensure food production for food security and serve as a catalyst for our natural resources beneficiation and employment creation.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah reminded her Cabinet members that they had been appointed in their respective sectors with a clear conscience and trust in their professional capabilities to help her carry out national assignments with a sense of purpose and urgency.

“In our quest for service delivery, there should be no time for complacency and procrastination; therefore, decisions taken must be implemented without any delay, as delays in the implementation of decisions taken will not be accepted,” President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

The President further stated that she does not like the word “work in progress”, as in most cases it is used to mean nothing is done.

The President further emphasised that during her administration, there will be no business as usual. She further emphasised that it is the team’s urgent duty to fulfil its Constitutional mandate.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah also urged the staff to carry out their responsibilities boldly and transparently within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia and guard against favouritism or any undue influence. She further urged the staff that their duty is to serve citizens, investors, and visitors timely and equally.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah emphasised that the team needs to hit the ground running and that Namibians do not expect anything less but expect tangible

improvements in their material conditions in order to improve their lives, adding that *“we are too few to be poor. Therefore, the responsibility is to deliver on our promises.”*

The President directed the Cabinet Ministers to ensure that all public servants maintain, at all times, high ethical standards, and Organisations, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs) must provide the best possible services timely and without favouritism.

The President reminded her Cabinet that they have overall responsibility over the staff members in their Ministries and Offices.

“Therefore, should there be any law or instruments that made it difficult for Ministers to assist officials to execute their duties as expected, I direct the Prime Minister to be assisted by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General to amend those laws and instruments by the end of May this year,” President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

The President further urged the ministers to remain available to deal with queries and to work with the private sector, communities, the public, and other stakeholders, including the media, which is an important stakeholder in communicating policies and activities of Government.

Emphasising the vital role played by the media, referring to them as the “fourth arm of state”, the President stated that they are expected to perform their responsibility objectively and contribute to the development of our country.

The President stated that together, the team will make the difference that the people of Namibia expect of them.

In terms of Cabinet meetings, the President stated that the Cabinet meeting will be held every Tuesday and will be chaired by the President or any member of Cabinet as delegated by the President in case she is absent for one reason or the other.



Energy, Education, and Economic Growth at Centre of Namibia–Russia Talks

By Katrina Jacob



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah received a courtesy visit on 1 April 2025 from His Excellency Yury Trutnev, Deputy Prime Minister and Presidential Envoy to the Far Eastern Federal District of the Russian Federation, during which the two leaders discussed avenues to deepen strategic cooperation between Namibia and Russia.

According to the Presidential Spokesperson and Press Secretary, Dr. Alfredo Hengari, the meeting focused on key priority areas, including economic cooperation, energy security, and education, with a strong emphasis on natural resource beneficiation. The engagement underscored Namibia's commitment to

fostering bilateral relations that align with its national development objectives—particularly in addressing youth unemployment and poverty reduction.

The visit served as a reaffirmation of the enduring historical ties between Namibia and the Russian Federation, dating back to the days of the liberation struggle. President Nandi-Ndaitwah emphasised the need to transform these historic bonds into modern strategic cooperation that delivers practical and sustainable outcomes.

Dr. Hengari noted that the President highlighted the importance of moving beyond the mere export of raw



materials, calling for enhanced cooperation with the Russian Federation in areas such as energy—especially nuclear energy, where Russia remains a global leader. Namibia’s wealth in uranium and other minerals presents a vital opportunity for in-country value addition, job creation, and industrial development.

“Namibia is prioritising the monetisation of its natural resources. It is not good economic policy to export raw materials without local value addition,” President Nandi-Ndaitwah.

Deputy Prime Minister Trutnev expressed full agreement with the President’s vision, reaffirming Russia’s readiness to support

Namibia in the development of local industries and in creating technology-based partnerships that strengthen Namibia’s self-reliance.

Education also featured prominently in the discussions. The growing number of Namibian students currently studying in Russia was acknowledged, with both leaders emphasising the need to expand academic and vocational training opportunities, particularly in critical sectors such as science, engineering, and technology.

The meeting also reaffirmed the pivotal role of the Namibia-Russia Intergovernmental Commission in coordinating and overseeing

bilateral cooperation efforts. Both sides committed to revitalising the Commission’s work to ensure that decisions taken at the leadership level are implemented effectively.

Dr. Hengari further stated that President Nandi-Ndaitwah welcomed the visit as a positive step toward reinforcing Namibia’s international partnerships and enhancing foreign direct investment in line with the country’s long-term development plans.

The engagement concluded with a shared resolve to build a stronger, forward-looking relationship that transforms diplomatic goodwill into real socio-economic benefits for the people of both nations.



President Nandi-Ndaitwah Appoints Regional Governors

By Herman Kangootuii



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has appointed seven (7) Regional Governors as per the provisions in the Namibian Constitution and the Special Advisors and Regional Governors Appointment Amendment Act on 28 March 2025 at State House, Windhoek.

Article 111A(1) of the Constitution, along with the Special Advisors and Regional Governors Appointment Amendment Act, 2010 (Act No. 15 of 2010), gives the President the power to appoint Regional Governors who will serve at the President's request according to Section (2) of the same Article.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah appointed Honourable Verna Sinimbo as the Governor of Kavango-West Region; Honourable Julius Hamunyera Hambyuka as Governor of Kavango-East Region; Honourable Sacky Kathindi as the Governor of Oshikoto Region; Honourable Vipuakuje Muharukua as the Governor of Kunene Region; Honourable John Julius //Khmuseb as the Governor of Otjozondjupa Region; Honourable Sam

Shafiishuna Nujoma Jnr as the Governor of Khomas Region; and Honourable Riaan Charles McNab as the Governor of Hardap Region.

On the occasion, President Nandi-Ndaitwah reminded the Regional Governors that they are obliged to promote development, enhance service delivery, and represent the interests of the state at the regional level, as provided for in Article 132 of the Namibian Constitution.

"They represent the interests of the Central Government, ensuring that policies and programmes are effectively implemented in our unitary state. It means that the individuals I am appointing today must work hard to carry out the mandate, which the Namibian people bestowed upon us through the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto," President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

Furthermore, the President emphasised that her administration is committed to dealing with the high

unemployment rate, especially among the youth, which is a barrier to social progress, national cohesion and prosperity in the Manifesto.

"We have also vowed to address the housing backlog and disparities in access to basic services, in particular the informal settlements and between urban and rural areas. I must point out that climate change has negative impacts on the livelihoods of our people, causing tragedies such as droughts, water scarcity, excessive rains and land erosion that led to poor agricultural output and food insecurity," President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

The Head of State urged the Regional Governors to implement the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto for the years 2025-2030 on the basis of the Implementation Plan to address the issue of poor Governance that is eroding public trust in the work of the Government and many other challenges confronting the nation.

"The Implementation Plan has to be carried out together with other planned national development programmes. As appointees of the President, Regional Governors perform critical functions by assisting the President in overseeing the administration of our fourteen regions," the President stated.

The President also urged the Regional Governors to inform her in a timely manner on all matters of great concern as they happen in their respective regions.

Additionally, the President congratulated all of the Regional Governors on their appointments as Governors in their respective Regions, adding that, in appointing them, she has trust and confidence in them to serve the nation to the best of their abilities without fear or favour or nepotism.

"I consider you as people of integrity, and I expect nothing less from you in executing your duties. Unethical behaviour is equal to corruption, which undermines development and should be avoided in the performance of your duties and among the people you serve and work with," President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

The President added: *"Remember, 'THERE SHALL BE NO BUSINESS AS USUAL', and lack of implementation of Government policies and programmes will not be accepted. I also do not want to hear the public complaining about issues for which you must provide solutions. You must therefore stand ready to address those issues within the scope of your responsibilities without delay."*

Emphasising the importance of collaboration, President Nandi-Ndaitwah urged the Regional Governors to collaborate and to involve the communities and other stakeholders in their areas of responsibility in order to ensure ownership of all that is being done in the interest of the people.

"You must plan collectively by collaborating with Regional Councils and Local Authorities, including Traditional, Church, Business and Community Leaders, as well as other stakeholders, who can make a positive and meaningful contribution to regional development," President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

The Head of State told the appointed Governors that she has chosen them out of many other equally capable Namibians because she believes that they have the capabilities and abilities to efficiently deliver services to our people, adding that effective service delivery must be their password in executing their daily work.

In terms of monitoring, the President emphasised that their work will be closely monitored, adding that the Governors must be available to address problems in their respective Regions in consultation with Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs) as the situation demands in order to ensure effective service delivery.

"I urge all of you to take your responsibilities seriously and to serve in the best interest of all Namibians. Let us all stand together in our commitment to better service delivery and to collaborate for a brighter future for our nation. Let me once more again congratulate you on your important national responsibilities," President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Welcomes IOC President Dr. Kirsty Coventry

By Katrina Jacob



The President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, on Saturday, 5 April 2025, received a courtesy visit from the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Dr. Kirsty Coventry. The meeting, held at State House, marked a significant moment of continental pride, unity, and shared commitment to youth empowerment through sport.

Dr. Kirsty Coventry, a celebrated Olympian and former Zimbabwean Minister of Sport, is the first African – and the first woman – to be elected as President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). During her visit to Namibia, she also attended the 5th Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) Athletes Forum, held in Windhoek from 4 to 6 April. The forum brought together over 100 athlete representatives from all 54 African National Olympic Committees to engage in discussions on key issues affecting athletes across the continent.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah commended Dr. Coventry for choosing Namibia as one of her first destinations following her election, saying the visit comes at a pivotal moment.

"We are honoured by your presence. We regard sports not just as sport," President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated, "for us, it's a big industry, one that contributes to the mental wellness of our citizens, helps shape their future, and has real economic potential."

President Nandi-Ndaitwah further emphasised that the government has prioritised youth development as a national imperative, particularly through investments in infrastructure that will create opportunities for young people.

"We are just starting to put our feet on the ground, focusing on identified priorities. Your visit and collaboration come at a moment when we are investing in programmes that will uplift our youth and secure the future of our nation," President Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

In a heartfelt appeal, President Nandi-Ndaitwah addressed the nation's economic constraints, particularly the difficult decision she made to reallocate resources from pensioner support to youth infrastructure development.

"To my elders, our pensioners, I ask for your

understanding. This year, our focus must shift toward infrastructure that will benefit your children and grandchildren. Empowering the youth today ensures they will be able to support us tomorrow,” President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

Dr. Coventry thanked the President for her visionary leadership and praised Namibia’s commitment to sport as a tool for development.

“Your Excellency, it is a privilege that you are the first Head of State I meet in my new role. It sends an incredibly strong message around the world that as women, we are here and ready to lead. But also, as Africans, we are here and ready to lead. Thank you for breaking down barriers for all of us women to follow in

your footsteps,” Dr. Coventry stated.

Dr. Coventry reaffirmed the IOC’s commitment to working with African countries to strengthen sport systems, with infrastructure identified as a priority area.

“From the Olympic Movement’s perspective, infrastructure is key. We look forward to supporting Namibia’s journey and exploring areas of collaboration.”

The courtesy call symbolised a meeting of minds and missions, where continental leadership, gender progress, and youth empowerment converged. As Namibia continues to elevate the role of sport in national development, the visit of the IOC President-elect affirms the country’s place on the global stage.



The Eighth Administration: Priority Areas



AGRICULTURE:

Enhance food security and reduction of food imports through the acceleration of food production capacity in Namibia and ensuring that the existing green schemes are producing in full.



SPORTS:

Aimed at professionalising sports and building sport infrastructure in 121 constituencies and establish CAF category 2 and 3 as well as sports centres of excellence.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT:

Empower the youth to drive economic development and reduce unemployment



QUALITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

Ensure universal access to quality and free higher education and vocational education at public institutions.



CREATIVE INDUSTRY:

Ensure that we harness the talent of our youth and all Namibians through arts and the creative industry and ensure this industry is full established throughout the regions.



QUALITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE:

Expand access to quality healthcare in rural areas and establish intermediate hospitals in each region that meet private healthcare standards.



LAND, HOUSING AND SANITATION:

Ensure equitable access to land, housing and sanitation services.