

THE PRESIDENCY NEWSLETTER



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2025 – ONE HEART – ONE MIND

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Cover:

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwa delivers her maiden statement during the General Debate of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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Editor's Note

Dear Esteemed Readers,

We are delighted to present this edition of the Presidency newsletter, reflecting on significant engagements and progress for Namibia on both the domestic and international fronts. This publication serves as a vital conduit for disseminating crucial information regarding the activities, engagements, and initiatives of the Presidency, fostering dedication to inclusive governance, transparency, and engagement with stakeholders.

This edition features articles detailing the Presidency's contributions and multifaceted efforts undertaken to advance the nation's interests and global realities and champion national values and sustainable development. Among significant highlights of this edition is the comprehensive coverage of Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's participation in the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80). The President's address and engagements at this global forum underscored Namibia's commitment to international cooperation, multilateralism, and addressing pressing national, regional, and global challenges.

It is through informed engagement that we can collectively contribute to a more peaceful, prosperous Namibia and a just world. Therefore, we encourage you to delve into the articles within this edition to gain a greater appreciation for the Presidency's dedication to advancing Namibia's interests on the domestic and world stage.

As the year draws to a close and the festive season approaches, we extend our warmest wishes to you and your families. May this time be filled with peace, joy, reflection, and renewed purpose. Let us carry forward the spirit of collaboration and dedication into the new year, continuing our collective efforts to build a prosperous, equitable, inclusive and peaceful future for all.

Dr. Festus I. Nafuka

Chief Editor: Speech Writing and Research

Namibia's Voice Resounds at the 80th United Nations General Assembly

By Katrina Jacob



At the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80), held in New York on 24 September 2025, President Nandi-Ndaitwah delivered her maiden address as Head of State. Her statement reaffirmed Namibia's enduring commitment to peace, justice, equality, and multilateral cooperation, principles that have defined the nation's moral compass since independence. It was a moment that transcended diplomacy: the voice of Namibia returning to the same world stage that had once amplified her struggle for liberation.

Taking the podium of the United Nations (UN) – an institution that played a pivotal role in Namibia's own liberation – President Nandi-Ndaitwah paid tribute to the Founders of the UN who, eight decades ago, sought to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” and to reaffirm faith in human rights and equality among nations large and small.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah reminded the Assembly that Namibia's independence is one of the United Nations'

most enduring success stories. *“It was through this very Organisation,”* she recalled, *“that our forebearers tirelessly petitioned for the end of Apartheid-colonial rule in Namibia, for freedom and independence of our people.”*

The President reflected on her own long journey with the United Nations – one that began in 1974, when she first engaged the Organisation as a representative of the Namibian liberation movement. Decades later, standing before the Assembly as Namibia's fifth President, she personified the realisation of the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

“As a woman,” she declared, *“I encourage every girl and woman by affirming that your voice matters. Your vision is needed, as it will pave your way to the helm of whatever institution.”* Her words resonated across the General Assembly Hall, offering both personal testimony and collective inspiration to women across the world.

Charting Namibia's Development Vision

Turning to Namibia's domestic priorities, President Nandi-Ndaitwah outlined the pillars of the country's 8th Administration under the theme *"Unity in Diversity, Natural Resources Beneficiation, and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development."*

"Our focus," she explained, *"is to shape and transform the Namibian economy through value addition."* Agriculture, youth empowerment, education, creative industries, health services, land and housing all form the foundation for inclusive growth, supported by key enabling sectors such as mining, energy, tourism, water, transport, and logistics.

Namibia's long-term development vision, Vision 2030, continues to be implemented through successive National Development Plans (NDPs), with the newly launched Sixth National Development Plan (NDP 6) aligning closely with global and regional frameworks, including the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

From policy to action, the President cited tangible progress:

- The launch and operationalisation of a National Youth Fund to support young entrepreneurs;
- The abolition of registration and tuition fees in public institutions of higher learning and vocational training;
- The diversification of Namibia's energy mix, guided by a new Energy Compact presented at the Africa Energy Forum (AEF) to access concessional financing; and
- A clear commitment to climate resilience and green transition, with Namibia bidding to host the African Regional Hub of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Each initiative, she emphasised, is a piece of a larger vision to build a resilient economy that leaves no Namibian behind.

Confronting Global Challenges Through Multilateralism
President Nandi-Ndaitwah's message was clear and unwavering: no nation can face global challenges alone. *"Climate change is scorching our lands and drying up our rivers,"* she warned. *"Global instability is impacting our markets and jeopardising our*

livelihoods."

She called for empathy, cooperation, and collective responsibility in addressing shared vulnerabilities, from climate crises to technological ethics. Namibia, she said, supports technological progress but cautioned that *"Artificial Intelligence must not be a substitute for human judgement or responsibility."* She urged the establishment of global ethical standards to ensure transparency, fairness, and humanity in Artificial Intelligence (AI) governance.

On social justice, she recognised that youth unemployment, inequality, and the lack of adequate housing, health care, and education are global concerns. Addressing them requires unity, not isolationism. Her call *"Better Together"* echoed Namibia's enduring belief in multilateralism as the only viable path toward peace and prosperity.

One of the most powerful moments in her address came when the President turned to the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. Referencing recent UN reports, she declared: *"A genocide is being committed against the Palestinian people."*

Drawing from Namibia's own painful history of Apartheid colonialism and genocide, she spoke with moral conviction: *"It is our painful history that compels us to speak out, not out of bitterness, but conviction of the power of international solidarity."*

She urged the UN Security Council to act decisively to end the suffering and ensure the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people, insisting that *"failure to address the crisis in Gaza could become the moral failure that defines this era."*

The President concluded her address with an impassioned appeal for unity and justice: *"Respect for international law is not just a legal duty. It is a moral imperative. Even the smallest nations have a voice. When these voices are heard and heeded, durable peace and justice will prevail."*

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah's speech at UNGA80 was more than a diplomatic statement; it was a reaffirmation of Namibia's enduring commitment to a just, equitable, and peaceful world. It reflected the wisdom of experience, the humility of service, and the conviction of a leader rooted in moral clarity.



Philadelphia Honours President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah with Highest City Recognition

By Katrina Jacob



Diplomacy met opportunity as H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia, concluded a successful visit to Philadelphia, receiving one of the city's highest honours for her outstanding leadership and contribution to international cooperation.

In a ceremony held at Philadelphia City Hall, President Nandi-Ndaitwah was conferred a Council Citation by the President of the Philadelphia City Council, Hon. Kenyatta Johnson, in recognition of her exemplary statesmanship, visionary leadership, and her role in advancing global partnerships anchored in peace and shared prosperity.

Adding to this symbolic gesture of friendship, Mayor Cherelle Parker presented President Nandi-Ndaitwah with a miniature Liberty Bell, a timeless emblem of freedom and democracy, values deeply cherished by both the people of Namibia and the United States.

Receiving the honours with humility, President Nandi-Ndaitwah reaffirmed Namibia's unwavering belief in multilateralism and global cooperation.

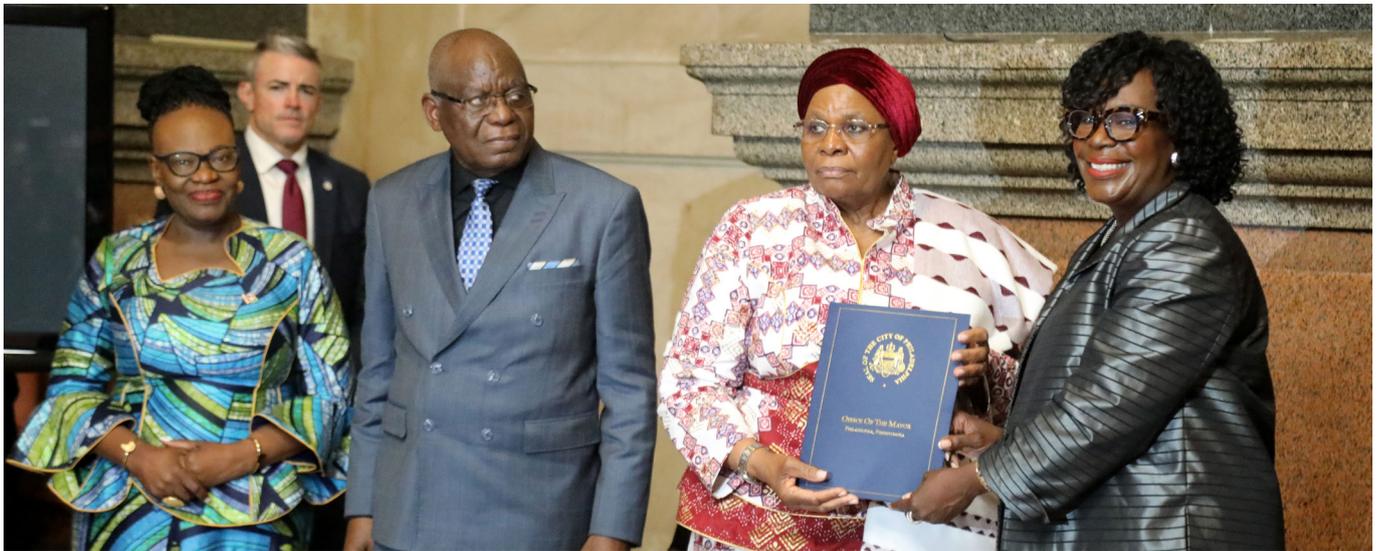
"This recognition affirms that meaningful change begins not only in parliaments or global summits but also in city councils and communities that connect directly with the people," she stated, emphasising that "the success of nations lies in collaboration, not isolation."

The ceremony celebrated not only the President's achievements but also Namibia's growing diplomatic footprint on the global stage. Under her leadership, Namibia has emerged as a respected advocate for sustainable development, gender equality, and inclusive governance. Recently, Namibia served as Co-Facilitator of the United Nations Pact for the Future, alongside Germany, an initiative designed to strengthen global governance and safeguard the interests of future generations.

Strengthening Bilateral Trade and Knowledge Exchange
Earlier in the day, President Nandi-Ndaitwah toured the Philadelphia International Produce Marketplace, one of the largest and most advanced fresh-produce distribution centres in the United States. Accompanied by Namibian business leaders, she engaged with local entrepreneurs on expanding trade capacity and agricultural partnerships.

The President commended the marketplace's efficiency and its contribution to job creation and economic resilience.

"From what I have seen here, there is much for us to learn, especially in how you organise your farmers. Our business community is eager to understand this process as we aim to expand agricultural production in Namibia," she remarked.



“We have moved beyond mere representation to substantive empowerment,”

President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

The visit sparked dialogue on exploring direct port-to-port trade routes between the Port of Philadelphia and Namibia’s Port of Walvis Bay, as well as discussions around potential air links to enhance commerce, tourism, and logistics between the two nations.

Academic Engagement at the University of Pennsylvania
At the University of Pennsylvania’s Perry World House, President Nandi-Ndaitwah delivered a thought-provoking lecture under the theme:

“Democracy, Gender Equality, and Leadership in Africa: Namibia’s Vision for Inclusive and Transformational Development.”

In her address, she highlighted Namibia’s post-independence democratic success, emphasising that *“Namibia’s democracy is rooted in respect for the rule of law, evidence-based policy, and inclusive governance.”*

The President also underscored the importance of gender equality as a driver of national development, noting that Namibia continues to set benchmarks in women’s representation across leadership levels.

“We have moved beyond mere representation to substantive empowerment,” she affirmed.

Her remarks resonated strongly with the university’s faculty and students, sparking robust discussion about Africa’s emerging leadership and the continent’s role in shaping a just global order.

Diplomacy Meets Business: Engaging the U.S. Private Sector

The President’s visit culminated in a high-level reception

hosted by Mr. Frank Giordano, Honorary Consul of Malta for Pennsylvania, attended by state governors, U.S. business executives, financiers, and diplomats.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah positioned Namibia as a gateway for sustainable investment in Africa, highlighting the nation’s peace, stability, and modern infrastructure. She called for partnerships in renewable energy, agribusiness, mineral beneficiation, and youth empowerment.

“Namibia’s youthful population, over 75% under the age of 35, is our greatest asset,” she emphasised. *“We invite partners to bring technology, transfer skills, and create jobs in collaboration with our government.”*

From City Hall to the University of Pennsylvania, from the produce marketplace to business roundtables, the Philadelphia visit underscored Namibia’s readiness to engage strategically with the world’s leading economies through trade, education, and innovation.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah’s engagements reflected a clear message: Namibia’s story is one of peace, progress, and partnership. The City of Philadelphia’s recognition of her leadership affirms not only her personal contribution to global diplomacy but also Namibia’s growing stature as a beacon of democracy and development in Africa.

“Let this moment serve as a bridge connecting the people of our two nations,” the President concluded. *“Together, we can build a more inclusive, prosperous, and interconnected world.”*

President Nandi-Ndaitwah Calls for UN that is Reflective of Current Realities

By Herman Kangootui



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has reiterated Africa's call for a United Nations (UN) that is fit for purpose, representative and reflective of present-day realities.

She was speaking at the occasion of the seventh (7th) C-10 Summit to commemorate the twentieth (20th) Anniversary of the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration on 21 September 2025 in New York on the margins of the Eighth United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80).

President Nandi-Ndaitwah reminded the delegates that twenty years ago, African leaders had agreed on the African Common Position on the Reform of the UN Security Council, adding that they came up with a road map, well known as the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration. *"Subsequently, a community of tenth (10th) Heads of States of the AU was set up to spearhead the*

African Common Position. Today, we are here to reflect on the work we started 20 years ago," President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

She further stated that these pivotal documents, born from our collective desire and unwavering commitment to Africa's progress and unity, have played an instrumental role in further shaping our continent's vision of being a dynamic force in the global arena.

The President emphasised that these documents constitute the Common African Position on the Reform of the UN Security Council.

"The eighth (80th) Anniversary of the United Nations is an opportune time for us to reflect on the values and principles upon which this organisation is grounded. Our repeated calls for a United Nations that is fit for purpose, representative and reflective of present-day

realities have become imperative," she stated.

The President further stressed that Africa deserves permanence at all global decision forums, especially those seized with making decisions related to the maintenance of international peace and security.

"This is our reminder that our quest to redress historical injustice and advance equity for a more inclusive and representative Security Council is JUST and commonly shared," President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

Praising the interest groups for support, the President stated, *"Allow me to acknowledge, with gratitude, the immense support from all interest groups for the Common African Position, which culminated in the recognition of Africa as a priority and special case in the reform process, as reflected in the outcome documents of relevant United*

“This is our reminder that our quest to redress historical injustice and advance equity for a more inclusive and representative Security Council is JUST and commonly shared,”

President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

Nations processes, including the Pact for the Future.”

The President called on the five (5) Permanent Members of the UN Security Council to lend their support to Africa’s stand on the right side of history and to ensure justice for future generations, as Africa prepares to submit the African Model on UN reform.

“Africa is not asking for handouts; we are demanding our rightful place in a Council that is tasked with the maintenance of international peace and security – a matter that greatly concerns us, our children and our children’s children,” the President stated.

Remembering the Beijing Conference on Women, President Nandi-Ndaitwah reminded the world of the thirtieth (30th) Anniversary of the Beijing Conference on Women and the twenty-fifth (25th) Anniversary of

the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

“Therefore, as Africa strives for equal representation in the world’s premier peace and security body, we must also ensure that African women, and women from other parts of the world, are equally participating in important peace and security decision-making platforms at the national, sub-regional, continental and international levels,” President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

She also commended the leadership of H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, as a coordinator of C-10 over the years.

“Your leadership is highly commendable, and it’s bearing fruit for Africa,” she said.



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Addresses the High-Level Meeting on the 30th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women

By Dennis Shikwambi



During the High-Level Meeting commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held on the margins of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80), Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah reaffirmed Namibia's unwavering commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

She emphasised that these principles have been central to Namibia's national agenda since gaining independence in 1990.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah highlighted Namibia's strong political will, demonstrated through the adoption and implementation of international frameworks such as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The President highlighted that these commitments have been effectively integrated into Namibia's national gender policies, reinforcing the country's dedication to advancing women's rights.

"Namibia has always upheld the principle that women's rights are human rights," she stated. "Building on the foundation laid by the Beijing Declaration, Namibia has consistently linked women's empowerment to national development. The country has made significant strides in political inclusion and legal reforms, reflecting its deep-rooted commitment to gender equity," President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

Underscoring Namibia's achievements, President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated that the country has closed 81.1% of its gender gap, ranking eighth globally and first in Africa, according to the 2025 World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report.

She celebrated the historic elevation of women to strategic leadership roles, noting that Namibia now boasts a female President, Vice President, Speaker of the National Assembly, and Secretary General of the ruling SWAPO Party.

"Women currently hold 57% of cabinet positions and



UN WOMEN



“Namibia has always upheld the principle that women’s rights are human rights,”

President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

BEIJING
+30 

High-level meeting convened by the
President of the General Assembly on

**THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE
ON WOMEN - GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
80TH SESSION**

38.5% of seats in the National Assembly, including leadership of key ministries such as Finance, Health, Education, and International Relations and Trade.” “These milestones reflect our nation’s progress and the transformative power of inclusive governance,” she stated.

Reflecting on her role as Rapporteur General during the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in

1995, President Nandi-Ndaitwah reaffirmed Namibia’s renewed commitment to accelerating the goals of the Beijing Declaration.

She outlined the country’s focus on combating gender-based violence, challenging harmful social norms, fostering strategic partnerships, and implementing gender-responsive budgeting—all vital steps toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5.

Namibia Strengthens Global Partnerships at UNGA80

By Katrina Jacob



At the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80), President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah led Namibia's high-level delegation to New York, reaffirming the nation's enduring commitment to global cooperation, peace, and sustainable development.

Through a series of bilateral and courtesy meetings with world leaders and multilateral organisations, the President projected Namibia's voice on key international issues, emphasising dialogue, solidarity, and inclusive growth as the foundation of a peaceful and prosperous world.

Strengthening Relations with the United Nations

On the margins of the General Assembly, President Nandi-Ndaitwah met with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, alongside Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and Chef de Cabinet Courtenay Rattray, during the global leaders' greeting session.

Their bilateral discussions reaffirmed Namibia's strong partnership with the United Nations and emphasised shared priorities, advancing sustainable development,

strengthening multilateralism, and addressing global challenges such as climate change and economic inequality.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah's engagements at UNGA80, including her meeting with H.E. Annalena Baerbock, President of the 80th Session of the General Assembly, underscored Namibia's commitment to inclusive multilateralism.

Renewing Africa's Bonds of Solidarity

Throughout UNGA80, President Nandi-Ndaitwah used her engagements to strengthen continental unity and celebrate Africa's shared destiny.

In her meeting with Kashim Shettima, Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, she expressed heartfelt gratitude for Nigeria's enduring support—from the liberation struggle to the passing of Namibia's Founding President. Vice President Shettima, representing President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, commended Namibia's leadership on the continent and called for deeper cooperation in trade, natural resources, and governance.

“Partnerships rooted in trust and peace bring real meaning to the global call for unity.”

President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

In another meeting, President John Dramani Mahama of Ghana and President Nandi-Ndaitwah reflected on Ghana’s pivotal role in Africa’s liberation movements and renewed their commitment to strengthening cooperation.

Her discussions with President Julius Maada Wonie Bio of Sierra Leone further highlighted enduring solidarity, especially Sierra Leone’s educational support to Namibian students and joint advocacy within the Committee of Ten (C10) for Africa’s representation in the UN Security Council.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah also met Algeria’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ahmed Attaf, marking her first official engagement with Algeria’s new leadership. The two leaders reaffirmed a partnership grounded in historical solidarity and a mutual commitment to Africa’s collective advancement.

Deepening Cooperation Beyond Africa

President Nandi-Ndaitwah’s engagements extended across regions, reinforcing Namibia’s position as a bridge between continents.

Her meeting with President Sadyr Japarov of the Kyrgyz Republic explored opportunities for cooperation as Kyrgyzstan expands its engagement with Africa and seeks observer status at the African Union.

In her bilateral with President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa of Portugal, the two leaders revisited centuries-old connections between their nations, agreeing to deepen collaboration in education, culture, and renewable energy.

Additional meetings with President Petr Pavel (Czech Republic), President Alexander Van der Bellen (Austria), and Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley (Barbados) focused on sustainable development, climate resilience, and inclusive trade partnerships.

With Prime Minister Philip Davis of The Bahamas, the discussion emphasised cooperation in the blue economy, tourism, and climate adaptation, a key area where small and mid-sized states share common challenges.

Advancing Economic Diplomacy and Investment

Promoting Namibia as a destination for strategic

partnerships, President Nandi-Ndaitwah met with Florizelle Liser, President and CEO of the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA).

She outlined seven priority sectors for collaboration: agriculture, youth and sports, education, health, creative industries, housing, and energy. Ms. Liser lauded Namibia’s leadership and confirmed CCA’s readiness to connect U.S. investors with Namibia’s growing markets.

“Namibia is open for business. Our focus is on building partnerships that create jobs, strengthen skills, and empower our people,” the President noted.

Ms. Liser highlighted CCA’s eagerness to connect American businesses with Namibia, noting the significant interest already shown. “This is an honor for us, and we look forward to promoting increased investment in Namibia’s key sectors,” she stated. The meeting reinforced Namibia’s dedication to strengthening its partnership with the United States and creating new pathways for mutual prosperity.

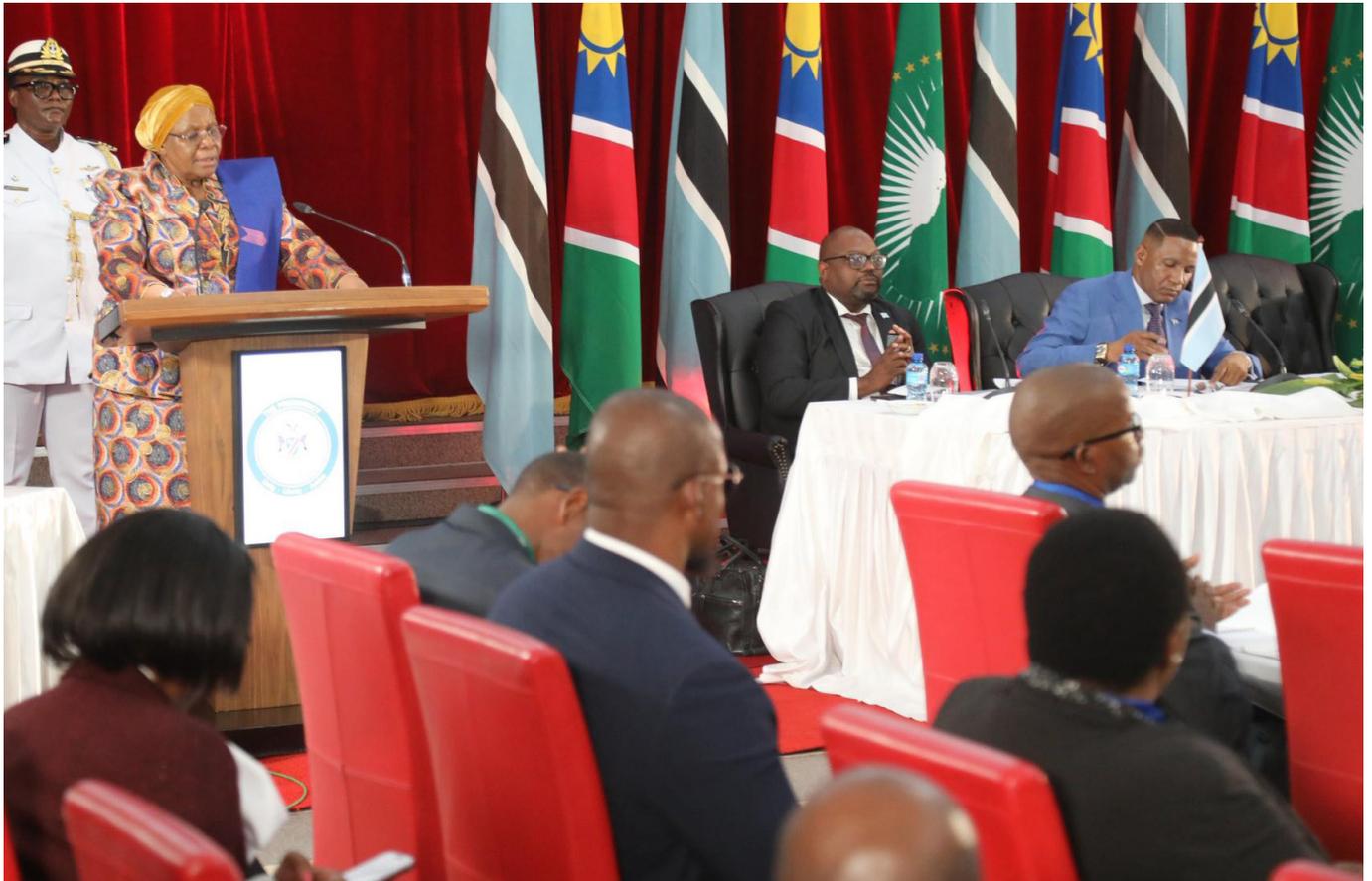
Promoting Peace and Disarmament

On the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, President Nandi-Ndaitwah received Dr. Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO).

The meeting coincided with the United Nations’ observance of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, a symbolic reminder of the stakes at hand. President Nandi-Ndaitwah and Dr. Floyd exchanged views on Namibia’s steadfast support for nuclear non-proliferation and their shared vision of a safer, more secure world. The President described the engagement as an important step toward strengthening cooperation in verification capacity and technical collaboration, stressing that such partnerships bring real meaning to the global call for peace. “What a remarkable coincidence,” she noted, reflecting on how Namibia’s message at the UN earlier in the day resonated with the dialogue with CTBTO. She underscored that the ultimate responsibility of leaders and institutions is to reassure citizens across the globe that they are safe; in her words, “That is truly the issue of our time.”

Namibia Hosts Bi-National Commission

By Dennis Shikwambi



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Co-Chaired the Second Session of the Namibia-Botswana Bi-National Commission (BNC), together with her counterpart Adv. Duma Gideon Duma, President of the Republic of Botswana, from 6 to 10 October 2025, in Windhoek, Republic of Namibia.

The Namibian Head of State described the occasion as a clear testament to the deep, lasting ties that unite the two nations and peoples and a powerful statement of the lasting friendship, solidarity and shared goals that connect the peoples of Namibia and Botswana, adding that the relationship is rooted in our shared history, mutual respect and a common vision aimed at peace, stability and prosperity not only for our nations but for the entire Southern African region, the African Continent and the world at large.

"The two countries have made significant progress in the formalisation and strengthening of cooperation across various important sectors. Since the

establishment of the Bi-National Commission in September 2022, the first session held in Gaborone served as a crucial starting point, establishing a solid foundation for ongoing partnership," President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah noted that the BNC was preceded by the meeting of the senior officials, experts and ministers from both governments who worked tirelessly, demonstrating exceptional foresight and commitment to carefully review the progress of our current commitments, while also exploring new opportunities for greater collaborations. Adding that the comprehensive agenda for the discussion includes key areas such as political and diplomatic relations, the development and improvement of legal frameworks, economic growth strategies, defence and security cooperation, and social and cultural integration.

Several memoranda were signed after the BNC, which will serve as a clear example of strong dedication to

“It has also resulted in the implementation of a One-Stop Border Post at Trans-Kalahari/Mamuno, located on the trade corridor, which connects Gaborone with the Walvis Bay port, facilitating a streamlined customs process,”

President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

turning shared ambitions into tangible results that address the needs and hopes of the two countries and people, said President Nandi-Ndaitwah, adding that Namibia stands ready to collaborate more closely with the Botswana Government to advance the historic partnership our Founding Fathers envisioned, in the spirit of Pan-African solidarity.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah emphasised that this year’s BNC is taking place at an opportune time, as this is the season of renewed hope, economic reform and regional integration, adding that the Namibian Eighth (8th) Administration has identified seven (7) key priority areas for development, which are agriculture, sports, youth empowerment, quality education and training, creative industry, quality health and social welfare, and land, housing and sanitation, which are driven by eight economic enablers, mainly mining, agriculture, energy, water, oil and gas, fisheries, infrastructure development, transport and logistics.

She highlighted that the two countries need to convert their robust political relations into tangible economic growth and sustainable development for the socio-economic benefit of their people.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah further added that the Inaugural Bi-National Commission held in 2022 between Namibia and Botswana resulted in major successes in implementing the decisions adopted then.

“It has also resulted in the implementation of a One-Stop Border Post at Trans-Kalahari/Mamuno, located

on the trade corridor, which connects Gaborone with the Walvis Bay port, facilitating a streamlined customs process,” the President stated.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah stressed that the cordial relations between the two countries have also accelerated the progress made on the Trans-Kalahari Railway feasibility study, the project that has the potential to connect Botswana’s mineral-rich regions with Namibia’s major ports, thereby transforming trade and economic integration across Southern Africa. She also expressed that the continued cooperation in security, mining, education, and cultural exchanges exemplifies the multifaceted partnership we seek to strengthen.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah lauded the collaboration between the two countries, which extends beyond bilateral issues to regional, continental, and global matters, adding that we are living in an age where multilateral cooperation is being redefined and challenged; therefore, it is critical to defend and uphold the principles of multilateral cooperation, international law, including humanitarian law, and human rights. Namibia and Botswana have always stood firm on this, and this is the time to remain steadfast, she stated.

In her conclusion President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated that she hopes that this Second Session of our Bi-National Commission will lay a strong foundation for future collaborations, building upon the achievements of our predecessors and opening new avenues for tangible results benefiting our citizens.



Namibia Reaffirms Global Leadership on Women, Peace, and Security

By Katrina Jacob



At the margins of the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80) in New York, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah once again positioned Namibia at the forefront of the global dialogue on peace, security, and gender equality. Delivering her opening remarks at the Annual Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Ministerial Focal Points Network on 24 September 2025, the President reminded delegates that what began as a pioneering resolution in the year 2000 has evolved into one of the most transformative global frameworks for gender-inclusive peacebuilding.

“At the time when we initiated Resolution 1325 in the Security Council, we never imagined that it would create a wide-ranging global agenda, such as the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda,” she reflected. “The magnitude at which this resolution has grown is testament to its relevance and our collective commitment to ensuring international peace and security.”

Resolution 1325 marked a historic recognition of the indispensable role that women play in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and post-conflict reconstruction. Today, as the world commemorates its 25th Anniversary, President Nandi-Ndaitwah emphasised that the journey of the Women, Peace,

and Security Agenda is far from over; it is entering a new era of action and accountability.

Namibia’s deep and enduring commitment to the WPS Agenda remains evident through its policies, partnerships, and national planning. The President extended appreciation to Japan and Norway for co-chairing the Focal Points Network in 2025 and to all member states for their collaborative work in the Tokyo and Oslo meetings, where new recommendations were formulated to advance the global agenda.

“This network,” she said, “is vital for sharing best practices as well as building and expanding partnerships.”

As Namibia reviews its first National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace, and Security and prepares to launch a stronger, more inclusive second NAP, the President shared that the process will integrate lessons learnt from the past decade while widening participation across all levels of society.

Namibia’s first NAP incorporated critical themes such as disaster risk management, climate change, and cyber security—recognizing the complex and evolving nature of security threats facing women. The forthcoming plan will expand these priorities through community-

“This network, is vital for sharing best practices as well as building and expanding partnerships.”

President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

led solutions, enhanced private sector participation, and comprehensive stakeholder mapping across all regions.

This mapping, the President noted, will ensure that government, civil society, traditional authorities, youth groups, and community leaders all have a voice in shaping the national WPS agenda. *“This will ensure that the NAP reflects the realities and priorities of all Namibians,”* she said, reaffirming her administration’s belief in inclusive, people-centered policymaking.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah further underscored the importance of regional coordination within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU) frameworks. Namibia, she said, will continue to advocate for effective SADC and AU mainstreaming of WPS principles, ensuring that peacebuilding efforts on the continent are both gender-sensitive and regionally harmonised.

In this spirit, Namibia will host the Silver Anniversary Commemoration of Resolution 1325 in Windhoek this October, in partnership with the African Union Commission and the SADC Secretariat. The event, themed *“25 Years of 1325: Honouring the Legacy and Advancing the WPS Agenda,”* will celebrate progress, renew commitments, and share regional best practices.

Parallel to this, another high-level event will be held in New York, offering the international community a space to exchange lessons, reinforce networks, and reaffirm commitments to advancing the WPS agenda beyond its 25-year milestone.

“This inclusive approach will enhance regional

coordination, amplify grassroots voices, and reinforce the link between community perspectives and policymaking,” she said, summing up Namibia’s vision of turning principles into tangible action.

Inspired by the Oslo Joint Communiqué, President Nandi-Ndaitwah announced that Namibia will convene an Intergenerational Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security, a bold initiative designed to bridge the experiences of seasoned policymakers with the perspectives of youth leaders. This, she said, is essential to sustaining the momentum of Resolution 1325 for future generations.

“We must honour the legacy of 1325 while ensuring youth inclusion,” she affirmed, highlighting Namibia’s growing investments in capacity building for mediation, peacekeeping, and peace support operations.

At the heart of these initiatives stands the Namibia International Women’s Peace Centre, envisioned as a multisectoral institution that will continue to advance advocacy, training, and research in peacebuilding. The Centre will serve as a hub for collaboration across government, civil society, and international partners, a living embodiment of Namibia’s promise to keep the WPS agenda alive and vibrant.

In closing, President Nandi-Ndaitwah called upon all nations to remain steadfast in upholding the spirit of Resolution 1325. *“Through stronger NAPs, regional leadership, intergenerational action, and strategic partnerships, we can ensure that the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda continues to thrive and make a tangible impact on the lives of women, especially those in conflict situations,”* she said.



COP30 Highlights: Namibia's Renewed Call for Climate Justice and Action

By Maria Petrus



Namibia made a strong and compelling case for climate justice at the 30th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP30) Leaders Summit, held from 6 to 7 November 2025 in Belém, Federative Republic of Brazil.

At this global gathering, Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah joined world leaders under the theme *"From Agreement to Action: Accelerating the Implementation of Climate Solutions,"* where she reaffirmed the country's commitment to meaningful climate action. Her message was clear: Namibia is ready to move from pledges to implementation, ensuring that vulnerable communities are protected and national development continues sustainably.

One of the key moments of the Summit was President Nandi-Ndaitwah's maiden address at a COP30 as Head of State. She reminded the global community that nations contributing the least to climate change often bear its harshest impacts. Drawing attention to Namibia's increasing vulnerability to drought, floods, and water scarcity, she highlighted the country's innovative national responses, including the Green Hydrogen Strategy and the pioneering Oshivela Green Iron Plant. President Nandi-Ndaitwah called for predictable and equitable climate financing and urged reforms to global financial systems to ensure developing nations can access resources needed for effective climate adaptation.

In addition to participating in the

high-level sessions, President Nandi-Ndaitwah used the platform to strengthen Namibia's international partnerships. She held bilateral engagements with the leaders of Finland and Norway, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela. These meetings explored opportunities to deepen cooperation in renewable energy, climate adaptation, skills development, ocean governance, and the support for Namibia's bid to host the African Green Climate Fund (GCF) Regional Hub.

The President also took part in a series of leaders' roundtable sessions, including discussions on the global energy transition and the tenth anniversary of the Paris Agreement. She emphasised the importance of a just and inclusive transition that acknowledges

Africa's unique socio-economic context. She further stressed the need for increased investment, technology transfer, and direct access to funding to support Namibia's ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term climate goals.

Namibia's presence at COP30 significantly elevated its international profile, positioning the country as a determined voice for climate justice and sustainable

development. The engagements strengthened bilateral relations, advanced Namibia's GCF Regional Hub aspirations, and highlighted the nation's leadership in green industrialisation and renewable energy. Throughout COP30, President Nandi-Ndaitwah consistently reinforced the urgency of taking decisive climate action, reminding the world that the time for promises has passed and the time for meaningful action is now.



President Nandi-Ndaitwah: “I Must Feed This Nation”— Reviving Namibia’s Green Schemes for Food Security and Dignity

By Katrina Jacob

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah’s nationwide Green Scheme tour has reaffirmed Namibia’s commitment to agricultural transformation and food sovereignty. Covering the Zambezi, Kavango East, Kavango West, and Omusati Regions, the President’s familiarisation visits highlighted progress, challenges, and opportunities in the country’s most fertile lands, where water, soil, and willpower meet to secure Namibia’s place in Africa’s food basket.

Kalimbeza: Where the Journey Began

President Nandi-Ndaitwah began her Green Scheme tour at the Kalimbeza Rice Farm in the Zambezi Region, where she was warmly welcomed by the Regional Governor, Hon. Dorothy Mareka Kabula, and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, Hon. Inge Zaamwani.

Kalimbeza Rice Farm spans 229 hectares, with 150 hectares allocated to rice production. During the 2024/25 season, 38 hectares were cultivated, yielding 108 tons of rice.

The President emphasised that as Namibia strengthens its contribution to Africa’s food basket, the Zambezi, Kavango East, and Kavango West Regions, regarded as the country’s breadbaskets, will remain a priority under her leadership to ensure they reach their full potential in food production.

Drawing inspiration from her recent visit to Madagascar, where she witnessed impressive agricultural innovation, President Nandi-Ndaitwah highlighted the importance of advancing innovation in agriculture to enhance food security and improve livelihoods for all Namibians. She stressed that *“deadlines must be met”* to ensure projects such as Kalimbeza deliver on their promise of boosting the nation’s food security.

The visit also included discussions with the University of Namibia (UNAM) and the Indonesian Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Mr. Mirza Nurhidayat, on strengthening cooperation between UNAM and the University of Gadjah Mada in Indonesia to expand the farm’s capacity and impact.





“Zambezi and the Kavango regions carry the green promise of our country. When these lands prosper, Namibia prospers,” she said.

Kavango East: Progress Rooted in Community

The President’s next stops were in the Kavango East Region, beginning with the Shadikongoro Green Scheme, one of Namibia’s oldest and most productive farms. This was her third visit in twelve months, a sign of her sustained commitment to food security and community empowerment.

At Shadikongoro, she toured sunflower and wheat fields, met small-scale farmers, and even purchased local produce, a simple act that symbolised her closeness to the people. She noted visible progress since her last visit and praised the refurbishment of key facilities and the integration of small-scale farmers into commercial production.

“The support given to small-scale farmers here is a model of what we would like to see across our green schemes,” she said.

Shadikongoro continues to contribute to community well-being through food donations, water access for schools and households, internship opportunities for agricultural students, and affordable staple food for surrounding communities. Its produce also supports the national drought relief programme, showing how development and compassion can coexist.

At Ndonga Linena, the President engaged farmers on challenges such as input costs, land allocation, and the need for improved coordination following Agribusdev’s restructuring. She underscored the role of agro-processing, research, and climate adaptation in sustaining production.

Uvhungu Vhungu and Sikondo: Growth and Innovation
At Uvhungu-Vhungu, the President visited the dairy farm, irrigation systems, and youth-run de-bushing programme, which has created over 200 jobs. She

lauded the farm’s revival and called for greater youth participation in agricultural innovation.

“We are working hard to unlock the full potential of agriculture and transform our Green Schemes into models of excellence.”

In Kavango West, President Nandi-Ndaitwah toured the Sikondo Green Scheme, known for its consistent wheat, potato, and tomato yields supplying local markets. She encouraged local fertiliser production, stating:

“We are a mineral-based country; we must find ways to produce our own fertiliser. I cannot feed the nation if Green Schemes are unable to produce.”

Etunda and Ogongo: The Spirit of Innovation

The President concluded her Green Scheme tour in the Omusati Region, where she visited the Etunda Irrigation Project and the Otjimbele grape farm, a 15-hectare plot established in 2023 that has already delivered two successful harvests. The project currently employs over 100 people, illustrating the potential of modern agriculture to generate jobs and prosperity.

She also toured the University of Namibia’s Ogongo Campus, commending students and researchers for their dedication to practical, solar-driven irrigation and sustainable rice cultivation.

“Research must be applied, not shelved,” she said. *“The future belongs to those who prepare for it today.”*

As her multi-region tour concluded, President Nandi-Ndaitwah left farmers, youth, and communities with a message that resonates with her leadership philosophy:

“I must feed this nation – without failure. Zambezi, Kavango East, and Kavango West hold great potential because the land, the water, and the fertile soil are there. If it requires me to return twice a year, I will do so. I commit myself to feed the Namibian people.”

Vice President Led the Namibia Delegation to the 2025 Intra-African Trade Fair

By Simon Uirab



Her Excellency Lucia Witbooi, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia, by delegation of H.E. Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia, led the Namibian delegation to the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF 2025), held from 4 to 10 September 2025 in Algiers, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

The Intra-African Trade Fair serves as a premier continental marketplace fostering Business-to-Business (B2B) and Business-to-Government (B2G) engagements, facilitating trade finance, and showcasing African innovation across key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, ICT, energy, tourism, and the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs).

Namibia's well-curated national pavilion highlighted the country's unique trade and investment opportunities, promoted its priority sectors, and enabled meaningful connections with investors, buyers, and policymakers. The event provided a critical platform for advancing Namibia's economic diplomacy, unlocking new export markets, and positioning Namibian enterprises to capitalise on the opportunities presented by AfCFTA.

During the official opening Her Excellency Lucia

Witbooi participated in the Presidential Roundtable discussions under the theme: *"Establishing Africa as an Economic Powerhouse under the AfCFTA"*, presided over by H.E. Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. Vice President Witbooi shared perspectives on Namibia's sustainable management of natural resources as well as the importance of the management of the continent's vast natural resources.

Her Excellency, the Vice President, also delivered a keynote address at the opening ceremony of the Creative Africa Nexus (CANEX), held on the margins of the IATF 2025.

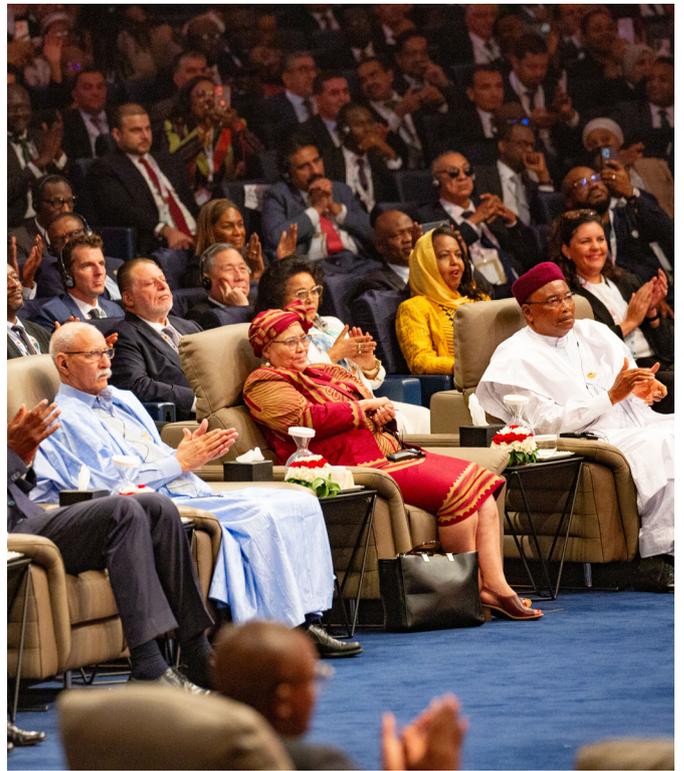
Vice-President Witbooi also held a bilateral meeting with His Excellency Mohamed Arkab, Minister of Energy and Mining of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, on 5 September 2025 in Algiers.

One of the highlights that came out from the meeting was for Namibia to consider speeding up the proposed signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and convening a bilateral workshop that could serve as a possible first step towards formalising collaboration between the two countries.



The participation of Her Excellency Lucia Witbooi and her delegation in the IATF 2025, including all associated events, was warmly welcomed and positively received by both the Government of Algeria and the Trade Fair's organisers.

The Namibian delegation also included the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Trade Hon. Jenelly Matundu, Special Advisor and Head of the Upstream Petroleum Unit in the Presidency Hon. Kornelia Shilunga, and the Chief Executive Officers from the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development



Board (NIPDB), the Namibia Tourism Board, and the Walvis Bay Corridor Group, as well as GSI Namibia, alongside Senior Government Officials.

The delegation also included a dynamic group of Namibian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) from the agro-business, reflecting the country's entrepreneurial spirit and commitment, as well as MSMEs from across the fashion, jewellery, film, design, and technology sectors, who participated in exhibitions and knowledge sessions.



Opening of Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair by President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah

By Dennis Shikwambi



Opening the 24th Edition of the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair (OATF), President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah called on the Namibian business community to take advantage of other countries' interest in Namibia and identify business areas where they could partner with their Indonesian counterparts. Adding that, by their nature, Trade Fairs are opportunities for businesspeople to learn from one another and to understand the demand of the market.

At the same occasion, President Nandi-Ndaitwah welcomed the Premier of Limpopo Province, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, and her high-level delegation to Namibia and to the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated that the Premier and her team's presence gives tangible expression to the close cooperation committed to under the Bi-National Commission established between the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Namibia and reinforces the Memorandum of Engagement that exists between the Oshana, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, and Omusati Regions in Namibia and Limpopo Province in South Africa, which focuses on a shared commitment

to regional economic integration and collaboration for the benefit of our people.

"Trade Fairs and shows are planned to enable participating businesses to be focused on their businesses to make a meaningful contribution to the economic development of the country," noted President Nandi-Ndaitwah.

Additionally, the President lauded the initiative and encouraged local entrepreneurs, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), and Town Councils to seize this opportunity, build cross-border partnerships, explore new markets, and embrace innovation.

"Noting that from its humble beginnings in 2000, the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair has transformed into a national flagship trade and innovation event. Trade Fair serves not only as an exhibition ground but also as a hub for enterprise development, policy dialogue, and investment opportunities. Indeed, the Trade Fair is a reflection of our national aspirations, a space where our ambitions for economic diversification, inclusive growth, and sustainable development come to life,"

President Nandi-Ndaitwah said.

The President highlighted that this year's Trade Fair theme, *"Innovate-Connect-Prosper,"* resonates with the essence of the national economic transformation journey the 8th Administration has embarked upon.

"Indeed, this is a call to action and a guiding principle for collective efforts towards sustainable economic growth, development and a shared prosperity," says the President.

The President further noted that the Trade Fair facilitates opportunities for businesses across regions, sectors and countries to showcase their innovations, connect with markets, and explore partnerships.

She lauded the inclusion of a wide range of sectors, from energy, fisheries, health, finance, and arts and crafts, among others, in this year's exhibition list, adding that she is pleased to note that aviation and digital innovation are also represented for the first time, which clearly demonstrates that OATF is keeping pace with emerging trends and future demands.

"This Trade Fair contributes to the Economic Growth, Transformation and Resilience Pillar of the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP), particularly on youth employment, local value addition and digital transformation," President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah noted that she directed the Minister of International Relations and Trade and the Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy to undertake stakeholder engagements with the business community across the 14 regions.

She urged all businesspeople to participate in these regional engagements, further encouraging the Namibian business community to leverage the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) scheduled to take place in Algeria as announced by the Deputy Prime Minister.

"It is encouraging that this Trade Fair has attracted a total of 450 exhibitors, including 26 international

exhibitors from countries such as Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Botswana, and South Africa. This growth underscores the potential of other trade fairs and exhibitions across the country to attract international exhibitors to promote regional and continental integrations in alignment with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)," the President noted.

Despite evident progress, President acknowledged that the African continent is still hampered by infrastructure gaps such as transport both on land, water and air, which proves to be a huge challenge in the facilitation of movement for both people and goods between African countries, adding that these gaps are a limitation to the full implementation of AfCFTA.

"Therefore, it is of vital importance that the Government collaborate together with private sectors in order to provide appropriate investment in the continental infrastructure development," President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

The President further noted that with the discovery of oil and gas in Namibia and other critical minerals, it is essential that, moving forward, these sectors participate in Namibian expos or trade fairs for our people to understand the different services that are required. To enable Namibia to participate in the oil and gas and critical minerals by providing the necessary services.

The President encouraged all participants to use this platform to engage, collaborate, and forge partnerships that foster shared prosperity.

"Once again, congratulations to Ongwediva leadership and the organising committee for having put together this mind-resourcing event, adding that, together, we have a responsibility to make Namibia the best place for all of us to live in," the President stated.

She reemphasises that 'We are too few to be poor,' and with hard work, commitment and integrity, a shared prosperity is within our reach.



Government's Commitment to Creative Industry Advancement

By Herman Kangootuii



President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah reaffirms the Government's commitment to ensuring that the Creative and Culture Industry becomes a key driver of national pride and economic opportunity.

She was speaking at the Experience Namibia in New York event, which was organised by the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) on the margins of the Eightieth United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80). The event that was held on 22 September 2025 also served as a platform for the President to engage with Namibians in the diaspora.

At this event, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah officially launched the Expression of Interest for the Namibia Film and Creative City.

The Namibia Film and Creative City will be developed as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ), providing a comprehensive range of services, from state-of-the-art film production facilities and talent casting agencies to accommodation and hospitality.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah reiterated that the Namibian government, through the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), has created space for the growth and advancement of the Creative and Culture Industry.

"We are committed to ensuring that this industry becomes a key driver of both national pride and economic opportunity. Namibia reaffirms

its commitment to implementing policies and programmes that create employment for Namibian youth and deliver socio-economic development," the President stated.

On the Government priority areas, the President stated that they have identified seven priority sectors to drive this transformation, and among them, the Creative Industry has been elevated as a sector of national strategic priority.

"To further encourage this sector, the Government has allocated 50 million Namibian Dollars (approximately 2.9 million USD) towards hosting the 2025 National Arts and Creative Industry Awards. These awards are critical, significantly contributing to Namibia's GDP," President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

The President further emphasised that the Ministry responsible for this sector has been tasked with overseeing the establishment of an SEZ for the film industry and collaborating with key stakeholders to develop and grow this industry, adding that NIPDB intensifies investment promotion efforts to position Namibia as an international destination for world-class film production.

At the event itself, the President emphasised that 'Experience Namibia in New York' is just the beginning of the work being done to ensure Namibia becomes a top destination for film production.

“The Namibian delegation is here today with a clear vision, to begin laying the foundation for positioning Namibia as a world-class film production destination. Central to this vision is the development of a Namibia Film and Creative City. The Namibia Film and Creative City will offer a comprehensive range of services, from state-of-the-art film production facilities and talent casting agencies to accommodation and hospitality,” President Nandi-Ndaitwah stated.

She stressed that the Namibia Film and Creative City will play a critical role in nurturing the next generation of Namibian creative talent, while also hosting cultural heritage villages, research and development centres, and dedicated creative spaces for innovation and collaboration.

“This initiative is not just about infrastructure; it is about unlocking talent, attracting global productions, and building a thriving creative economy that benefits our communities and the globe,” the President stated.

She stated that preliminary estimates indicate that Namibia Film and Creative City could generate over ten million US Dollars in annual economic activity and create thousands of jobs once fully operational.

“With a broader mandate covering both film and wider creative industries, Namibia’s project can capture significant financial benefits while diversifying into music, fashion, arts, design, and other creative economic activities. Director of Ceremonies, Namibia prioritises New York City, as it played a critical role in advancing Namibia’s fight for independence,” the President said.

Adding that: “It was here that the pioneers of our independence movement found crucial partnership and support. It is exciting that Namibia is unveiling this Expression of Interest for its Film City alongside the United Nations General Assembly,” the President stated. The President invited the film industry players in New York to join Namibia in shaping a future filled with promise, progress, and possibility.

“We are committed to ensuring that this industry becomes a key driver of both national pride and economic opportunity.”

President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah



Office of the President Strengthens Commitment to Equity and Inclusion Through the Affirmative Action Plan

By Maria Petrus

The Office of the President continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to equity, inclusivity, and fair representation in the workplace through the development of its new Affirmative Action (AA) Plan for the period 2026–2028.

Building on the lessons and successes of previous plans, the new framework reaffirms the Office's dedication to creating a workplace environment that reflects the diversity of Namibian society while ensuring equal opportunities for all employees.

Over the years, the Office has made commendable progress in implementing measures that promote gender balance, inclusivity, and the empowerment of designated groups, particularly women and persons with disabilities.

Significant strides have been made in the process of improving accessibility in the workplace through infrastructural adjustments such as the construction of one accessible ablution facility at the ground floor and the ongoing implementation of recommendations by engineers to enhance physical access to office buildings.

The achievements of the current plan period include a steady increase in the representation of women across all employment levels. These milestones underscore the institution's commitment to inclusive governance and its alignment with the national employment equity agenda.

The newly developed Affirmative Action Plan (2026–2028) builds upon this strong foundation and introduces progressive measures aimed at deepening inclusivity and accountability.

Among the proposed activities are the full implementation of sign language training across all departments and continued investment in accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities.

The Plan also places emphasis on awareness creation through internal communication platforms such as the Office's website, intranet, and regular sensitisation workshops, ensuring that every staff member understands their role in advancing equality.

Additionally, the Office plans to strengthen its internal monitoring and evaluation procedures to ensure the effective implementation of the affirmative action measures.

This will involve regular reporting, data-driven reviews, and collaboration with the Employment Equity Commission (EEC) and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) for compliance verification and technical support.

Through this proactive approach, the Office seeks not only to meet statutory requirements under the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act but also to set a benchmark for other public institutions.

The development of the 2026–2028 Plan was informed by the outcomes of the Affirmative Action Committee training workshop held in Otjiwarongo in October 2025, where members reviewed the 2021–2025 baseline plan and aligned the new strategy with current institutional realities and national equity goals.

The Committee reaffirmed its collective resolve to create an inclusive, equitable, and enabling work environment where all employees can thrive and contribute meaningfully to national development.

As the Office of the President moves into the next implementation phase, it remains steadfast in its mission to lead by example in the realisation of Namibia's employment equity objectives.

Through deliberate action, policy reform, and continuous improvement, the Office aims to build a truly inclusive public service, one that upholds dignity, fairness, and equal opportunity for all.

Feld Strasse Renamed in Honour of Sir Seretse Khama

By Dennis Shikwambi



In honour of the Founding President of the Republic of Botswana, Sir Seretse Khama, the City of Windhoek renamed Feld Strasse after the Former Botswana Statesman.

Officiating this historical event, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah described the renaming as *“more than a change of name – a transformation of meaning,”* she said.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah emphasised that the renaming of the street stands as a tribute to the late Sir Seretse Khama, Founding President of Botswana, a visionary leader whose legacy of peace, democracy, and unity continues to inspire Africa.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah underscored Namibia’s profound appreciation for its enduring friendship and brotherhood with Botswana, a bond rooted in mutual respect, shared struggles, and a collective vision for regional integration and prosperity.

“This renaming is far more than a change in name; it stands as a testament to the lasting friendship between Namibia and Botswana and honours the legacy of Sir Seretse Khama, a founding visionary of SADC,” she stated.

The Namibian Head of State described Sir Seretse Khama as a distinguished son of Africa whose leadership, anchored in humility, service, and unwavering principles, continues to inspire generations.

By placing his name at the heart of Windhoek, President Nandi-Ndaitwah affirmed Namibia’s dedication to African solidarity and its reverence for a leader who championed justice, dignity, and collective progress. *“May this street forever remind us that leadership rooted in humility and service can transform nations,”* she added.

Also speaking at the ceremony, H.E. Lieutenant General Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, Former President of Botswana and son of the late Sir Seretse Khama, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Government and people of Namibia for the honour.

The Former President further noted that this street is more than a name on a signpost; it embodies the ideals that guided his father, which translated in freedom, dignity, unity, and the enduring spirit of African self-determination.

Reflecting on his father’s vision, Lt. Gen. Khama shared, *“When he looked north across the Kalahari, he saw not just a neighbour, but a brother—recognising that Botswana’s destiny was intertwined with Namibia’s.”*

He further noted that the tribute represents the “living truth of African unity”, serving as a reminder that true leadership is about service, not privilege, and that progress is forged through partnership and mutual respect.



Namibians Abroad Called to Champion National Values and Development

By Katrina Jacob



During her engagement with the Namibian community in the United States, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah called on citizens abroad to uphold the values that define them as Namibians; resilience, hard work, and integrity.

“Your actions, wherever you are, reflect on Namibia. Conduct yourselves as true ambassadors of your homeland,” the President stated, reaffirming her belief that Namibia’s image and progress are shaped not only by its leadership but by the conduct and contributions of all its people, at home and abroad.

The President underscored that Namibia’s development journey requires the collective effort of all Namibians, emphasizing that the diaspora remains a vital partner in advancing the country’s socio-economic goals. She encouraged Namibians living abroad to explore ways to contribute in priority sectors such as agriculture, education and training, sports, health, land and housing, sanitation, renewable energy, tourism, water, fisheries, and the creative industries.

President Nandi-Ndaitwah urged the diaspora to view their global experiences as a valuable resource for national growth. *“Your exposure to global innovation and knowledge should inspire solutions that strengthen*

Namibia’s transformation agenda,” she said.

The engagement also provided a platform for Namibians in the diaspora to present projects and initiatives spanning diverse fields – from clothing production and engineering to creative and social enterprises. Participants shared practical ideas for strengthening areas such as mental health support and pledged to explore ways of bringing their expertise and innovations back home to advance Namibia’s development.

In closing, the President expressed gratitude for the community’s patriotism and reaffirmed her faith in a shared national vision.

“Together, let us shape the Namibia we imagine; a Namibia united in purpose, bound by heritage, and driven by hope. You must find your way to make a contribution, because we value your commitment to your identity and to your homeland, the Land of the Brave.”

Her message resonated with attendees, reinforcing the call for Namibians worldwide to remain connected, contribute meaningfully, and embody the spirit of unity and nationhood that defines the Republic of Namibia.

Vice President Launched the Report on Direct Costs of Persons with Disabilities to Families in Namibia

By Simon Uirab



Her Excellency Lucia Witbooi, the Vice President of the Republic of Namibia, launched the Report on Direct Costs of Persons with Disabilities to Families in Namibia on 8 October 2025.

The Report identifies and values the economic impacts of disability, leading to more inclusive policy designs, improved social protection programmes, and better investment decisions. It also measures the economic value of programmes like disability advocacy, justifies investments in accessibility and rehabilitation services, and uncovers societal benefits that outweigh costs.

The Report informs policymakers about the extra financial burden on persons with disabilities and households with persons with disabilities.

The Vice President emphasised that the launch of the Report on the Direct Costs of Persons with Disability to Families in Namibia is a clear demonstration of the benefit of commitment and collaboration.

Calling for cooperation, the Vice President reiterated that the Government alone cannot achieve this commitment, adding that the Government needs committed and willing partners to enhance the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities.

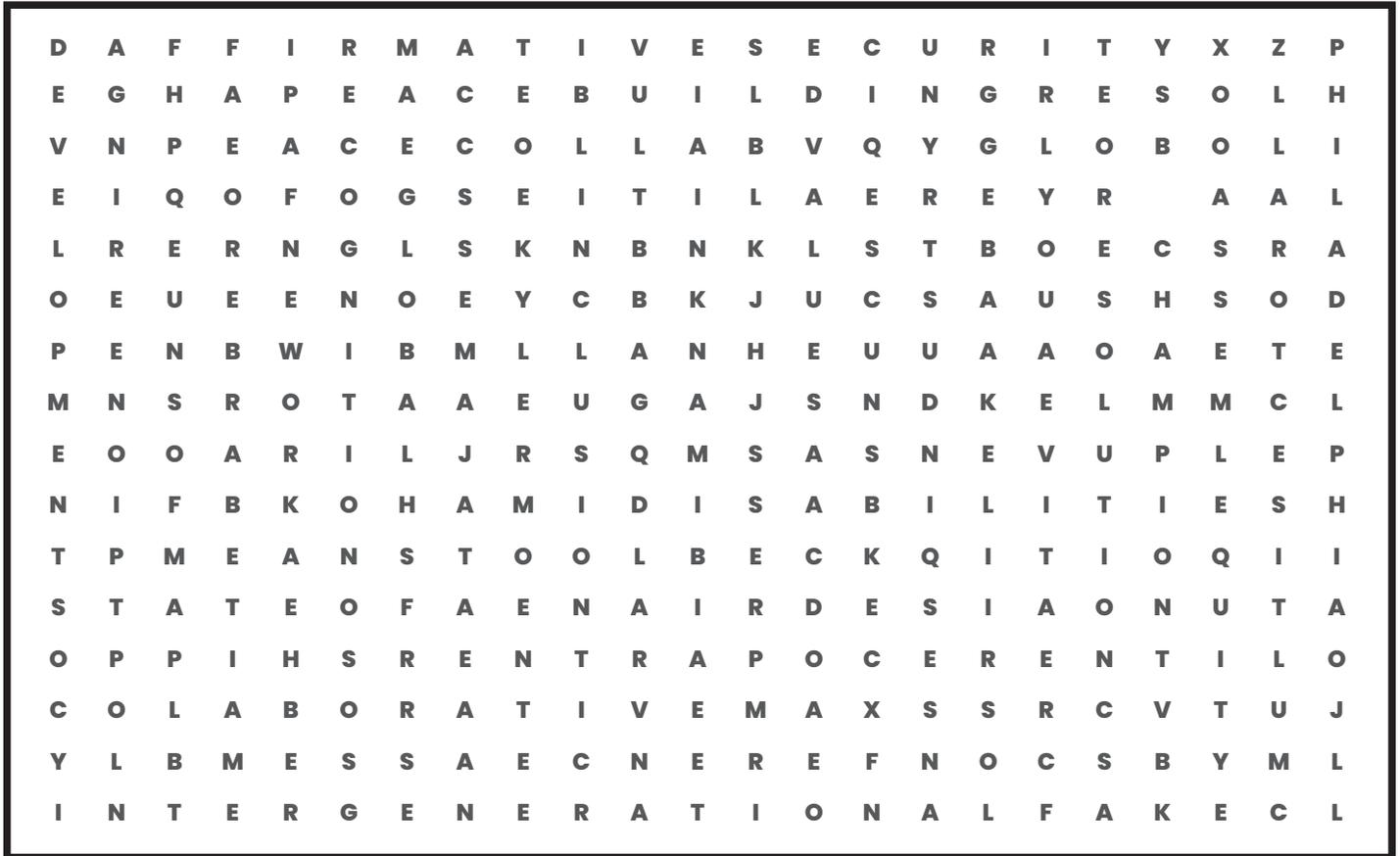
“Disability is a human rights issue; therefore, it is our collective responsibility to rethink how domestic financing will address the rights of persons with disabilities,” Vice President stated.

Vice President Witbooi stressed that her Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, will work on designing targeted funding mechanisms that recognise the distinct needs associated with different disability types to ensure that resource allocation is responsive and equitable—not just equal.

The recommendations in the Report contribute to informing effective financial resource allocation to various ministries, offices, and institutions, ensuring that the rights of persons with disabilities are met through access to all necessary services.

The Report is also available in a Braille version for visually impaired persons. The Report was produced with the assistance and collaboration of the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the Division of Disability Affairs in the Office of the Vice President, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the National Disability Council and the Organisations of Persons with Disabilities.

Crossword Puzzle



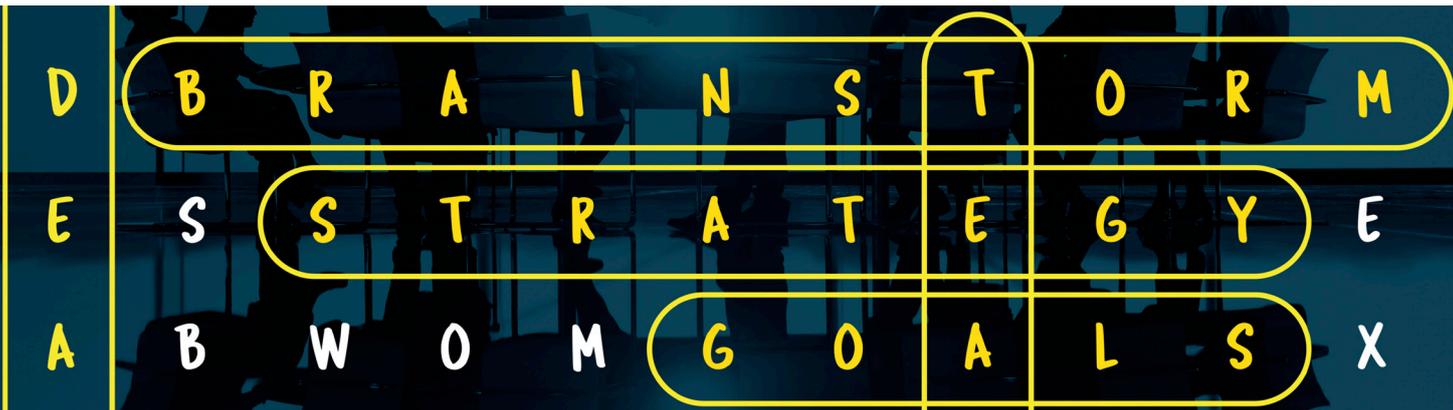
Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ← ↑ and ↓.

Peacebuilding
Security
Resolution
Collaborative
Intergenerational
Partnerships
Multisectoral
Pioneering

Peace
Global
Conference
Assembly
Champion
Values
Development
Equity

Inclusion
Affirmative
Philadelphia
Recognition
Realities
Creative
Industry
Disabilities

Namibia



Quiz

1. The term used to describe South Africa's policy that connects Namibia's independence to the presence of Cuban troops in Angola is called...
2. The city where the COP30 Leaders Summit was held in 2025...
3. The islands that were reaffirmed as part of Namibia...
4. The bird featured on Namibia's coat of arms...
5. The official currency of Namibia...
6. The capital city of Namibia...
7. The ocean that borders Namibia's coast...
8. The desert that lies to the east of Namibia...
9. The country that borders Namibia to the north...
10. The northwestern coast of Namibia is known as...
11. The month Namibia gained independence...
12. Multi-party is the political system Namibia adopted after independence.
13. Human rights and the rule of law are key features of Namibia's...
14. In words, the number of regions Namibia has...
15. The stance Namibia has adopted in its foreign policy...
16. The abbreviation of the regional organisation Namibia is a member of...
17. The official language of Namibia...
18. The name of the desert that covers a significant part of Namibia...
19. The highest mountain in Namibia...
20. The month the annual UNGA High-Level Week usually takes place...
21. The name of the national park known for its wildlife...

Health Tips and Awareness



EXERCISE AND BLOOD PRESSURE (BP): SURPRISING FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- 1. 30 minutes a day can lower BP by 5 to 11 mmHg**
 - That's as effective as some medications – no prescription needed!
- 2. Exercise trains your arteries**
 - Regular movement keeps your arteries flexible, reducing the strain on your heart.
- 3. Short bursts work too**
 - 3 x 10 minute activity sessions in your day = same benefit as 30 minutes straight!
- 4. Stress down, pressure down**
 - Exercise lowers stress hormones like cortisol
 - helping your heart stay calm under pressure.
- 5. Office work = Sitting risk**
 - Break the sitting cycle! Stand, stretch, or walk every hour to protect your heart.
- 6. Immediate benefits**
 - Your blood pressure drops right after exercising – even after a 10 minute walk

7. Boost energy naturally

- Skip the caffeine – a brisk walk can refresh your brain and lower your BP.

WELLNESS TIP:

Join our weekly exercise sessions at State House – your heart will thank you!

Mondays and Wednesdays from 15h45-16h45 and 16h45-17h45.

For more information regarding the sessions contact Francie Gerber 0812352328





MERRY *Christmas*

As we celebrate this Christmas season, we are reminded of the power of hope, unity, and goodwill. This is a time to reflect on the blessings we share as a nation and to extend compassion to those in need. May the spirit of Christmas strengthen our families, uplift our communities, and inspire us to continue building a peaceful and prosperous Namibia.

The Office of the President wishes every Namibian a joyful Christmas filled with love, rest, and renewed hope for the year ahead.

Photo Gallery



Photo Gallery



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.