



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
THE PRESIDENCY**

**STATEMENT BY
HER EXCELLENCY DR. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
NEW YEAR'S GREETING TO THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS**

**10 FEBRUARY 2026
STATE HOUSE, WINDHOEK**

**Director of Proceedings, Ambassador Bonny Haufiku,
Chief of Protocol;**

Your Excellency Lucia Witbooi, Vice President;

The Right Honourable Elijah Ngurare, Prime Minister;

**Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Speaker of
the National Assembly;**

**Honourable Lukas Sinimbo Muha, Chairperson of the
National Council;**

Your Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice;

**Lieutenant General (Rtd) Ephafra Denga Ndaitwah;
First Gentlemen;**

**Honourable Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary-General of the
SWAPO Party;**

**Honourable Immanuel Nashinge, Leader of the Official
Opposition in Parliament;**

**Honourable Frans Kapofi, Minister of Defense and
Veterans Affairs and Acting Minister of International
Relations and Trade;**

Honourable Cabinet Ministers;

**Honourable Jenelly Matundu, Deputy Minister of
International Relations and Cooperation;**

**Your Excellency Lauria Ngayino Nguele-Makouelet,
Ambassador of the Republic of the Congo and Dean of
the Diplomatic Corps;**

Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Heads of International and Regional Organisations; Honourable Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, Governor of the Khomas Region;

Your Worship Sakarias Uunona, Mayor of the City of Windhoek;

Distinguished Service Chiefs;

Esteemed Invited Guests;

Members of the Media.

I am pleased to welcome you to the State House at the beginning of this New Year and to convey, on behalf of the people and the Government of the Republic of Namibia, our warmest greetings and best wishes for a peaceful, prosperous, and productive year 2026.

Allow me, at the outset, to commend each and every one of you, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, both resident and non-resident, Representatives of international organizations, and Honorary Counsels, for your tireless efforts in fostering understanding, building bridges between our nations, and working collectively to address the shared challenges of our time.

Your presence here today stands as a reflection of the entrenched bonds of friendship, cooperation, and mutual respect that exist between Namibia and the countries and organisations you so ably represent.

Your Excellencies,

Namibia enters the year 2026 with clarity of purpose and confidence in the direction of its Foreign Policy. Our external relations remain firmly anchored in the enduring principles of respect for sovereignty, equality among States, non-interference in internal affairs, adherence to international law, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. These principles continue to guide both our bilateral and multilateral engagements.

The Republic of Namibia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the principles of self-determination, Freedom, Justice and Human dignity for all.

Therefore, as a nation that emerged from a history of colonialism and apartheid, Namibia continues to support the inalienable right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination and independence and the rights of the

Palestinian people to establish an independent, sovereign Palestinian state, living side by side with Israel in peace and security.

Similarly, the international community cannot lose sight of other conflicts across Africa, such as Sudan and DRC, the Middle East, and beyond.

Also of great concern, despite the overwhelming and consistent calls by the international community for the lifting of the economic, commercial, and financial embargo imposed on the people of Cuba, these measures remain in place, inflicting hardship on ordinary citizens and impeding sustainable development.

Such actions are not talking to our international collective commitment to solidarity, broad-based people-centered development, and the pledge to leave no one behind.

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namibia's Foreign Policy is increasingly shaped by the imperative of economic diplomacy. This is no longer a complementary aspect of our international engagement, but a central instrument in advancing our national development objectives. Hence, the renaming of the ministry to the Ministry of International Relations and Trade.

We are determined to ensure that our international partnerships translate into tangible and measurable benefits for our people, including increased investment, expanded trade, skills development, technology transfer, and the creation of sustainable employment opportunities.

We remain deeply grateful for the meaningful contributions of our international strategic partners in advancing Namibia's development agenda, particularly through their continued support for the goals and objectives of our Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6). These efforts have been instrumental in strengthening institutional capacity, advancing national priorities, and fostering inclusive and sustainable development for all Namibians.

In this regard, your continued work in strengthening bilateral ties, enhancing trade relations and promoting people-to-people exchanges between Namibia and your respective countries is highly valued and sincerely appreciated.

Your Excellencies,

Namibia continues to nurture and expand partnerships across Africa, Europe, Asia, the Americas, the Caribbean and the Middle East. These relationships are founded on mutual respect, shared interests and practical cooperation in key areas such as; infrastructure development, food security, education, health, technology, defence, culture, tourism and innovation amongst others.

We place particular emphasis on the role of effective diplomatic missions and consular cooperation in promoting two-way investment, facilitating market access for Namibian products, and strengthening people-to-people ties that deepen understanding between our societies.

Namibia remains a principled and committed advocate of multilateralism, which we regard as the most effective means of addressing the complex and interconnected challenges facing the international community today.

As a nation born of multilateralism, we continue to engage constructively in regional and international organisations, including the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), the United Nations (UN), and the Commonwealth, among others.

Within SADC, we work closely with our partners to advance economic integration, industrialization, and the development of regional value chains. Our collective objective is to move our region beyond the export of raw materials, towards the production of higher-value goods through local beneficiation and value addition.

At the continental level, Namibia remains firmly committed to the objectives of Agenda 2063 and the aspiration to silence the guns, recognizing that peace,

stability, and good governance are indispensable foundations for sustainable development.

Globally, Namibia continues to advocate for climate justice, food security, inclusive growth, and fair global economic governance, particularly in defence of the interests of developing countries.

In this context, Namibia reaffirms the central role of the United Nations and the continued relevance of the United Nations Charter. We call for full respect for international law and uphold the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the political independence of all States.

As the international system faces growing strain from geopolitical rivalries, economic fragmentation, and the escalating impacts of climate change, Namibia remains resolute in its belief that diplomacy, dialogue, and effective multilateralism remain indispensable.

Namibia is also closely following the UN80 Initiative and broader reform processes within the United Nations system. We support efforts aimed at strengthening the

effectiveness, credibility, and responsiveness of the Organization, while ensuring that the voices and interests of developing countries are meaningfully represented and safeguarded.

Your Excellencies,

Namibia's multilateral engagement in 2026 will focus on key strategic priorities, including peace and security, climate change, water and food security, and energy, as well as, continued contributions to the global non-proliferation and disarmament agenda.

These interconnected areas reflect both our national development objectives and our shared responsibility as a committed member of the international community.

In advancing the peace and security agenda, Namibia was honoured to host the Silver Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in October last year. The Windhoek Plus Twenty-Five (25+) Declaration adopted on that occasion reaffirmed global commitments and highlighted the indispensable role of

women in conflict prevention, peace-building, and post-conflict reconstruction.

Our commitment to intergenerational dialogue and inclusive participation in global decision-making remains central to our approach.

Your Excellencies,

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without reliable, affordable, and secure energy. Namibia, therefore, continues to prioritize the diversification of its energy mix, with attention to clean and renewable energy, to support industrialisation, economic growth, and improved livelihoods for our people. We invite our international strategic partners to accompany us on this journey, guided by mutual benefit, technology transfer, and shared responsibility.

Climate change remains both an existential and developmental challenge, particularly for vulnerable countries such as Namibia. Namibia continues to advocate for predictable, accessible, and affordable

climate and development finance, with a strong emphasis on adaptation and resilience.

We call for global commitments to be matched by concrete delivery, effective implementation, and measurable impact.

Your Excellencies,

Allow me to highlight a few notable bilateral engagements over the past year.

Namibia was honored by the decision of His Excellency Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and Member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, to make Namibia the first stop of his annual visit to Africa in January 2025. This visit reaffirmed the longstanding and mutually beneficial relations between our two countries.

We were equally honoured to receive His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, on a State Visit in July 2025, marking the Thirty-Fifth

(35th) Anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two nations.

The visit yielded concrete outcomes, including the signing of bilateral agreements, Namibia's accession to international initiatives, and enhanced cooperation in priority sectors. On a personal note, this visit will go into history as the first state visit, I had the honor to host upon assuming the responsibility as President of the Republic of Namibia.

Namibia also participated in the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women in Beijing in October 2025, underscoring international confidence in our country's commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

I further recall my participation in the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, New York, in September 2025, and the 30th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 30) that took place in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025.

Both these high-level international gatherings, have provided valuable platforms for me to engage with many

Heads of State and Government, as well as international private sector representatives.

Such engagements have strengthened bilateral relationships with your respective countries and reinforced investors growing interest in Namibia as a stable and credible investment destination.

At the regional level, Namibia continues to place high value on its close and longstanding relationship within our region.

My introductory visits to Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and South Africa, upon taking office as President of the Republic of Namibia, underlines the importance we continue to attach to our neighbours and the sub-region, as our first line of defence. The successful engagements I had during those visits was an assurance of strong bilateral cooperation that exist between our countries.

The successful convening of the Namibia-Botswana Bi-National Commission reaffirmed our shared

commitment to deepening cooperation for the mutual benefit of our peoples and the wider region.

Your Excellencies,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Allow me to once again express my sincere appreciation for your invaluable role in strengthening relations between Namibia and your respective countries and organisations.

I encourage you to continue working closely with us to deepen our bilateral and multilateral partnerships, to explore new opportunities for trade and investment, and to further nurture people-to-people relations that bind our nations together in friendship and shared purpose.

I thank you.