

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAST CABINET
MEETING OF THE 2017 CALENDAR YEAR**

DECEMBER 5, 2017

WINDHOEK

Check against delivery

**Comrade Dr. Nickey Iyambo, Vice
President of the Republic of Namibia;
Right Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-
Amadhila, Prime Minister of the
Republic of Namibia;
Honourable Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
International Relations and
Cooperation;
Honourable Ministers;
Comrade Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary
General of the SWAPO Party;
Secretary to the Cabinet;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I am pleased to welcome you to the last Cabinet meeting of the 2017 Calendar Year. It has been a challenging year, but together, we have risen to the occasion, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to achieving our objectives, and as we close off 2017 and prepare to take a well-deserved rest, we can do so with the conviction that we continue to stay on course in terms of implementing Namibia's development agenda.

At the opening of the first Cabinet meeting of 2017, I stated that, "we have a responsibility not to fail our people so we should simply deliver, embracing the ethos of hard work ..." I believe that we

have lived up to this clarion call and delivered to the best of our ability.

Evidence of the work ethic we have embraced is reflected by 21 deliberative meetings and 21 decision making meetings which Cabinet has held since February 2017. This totals to 42 Cabinet meetings, resulting in 240 Cabinet Decisions, issued to respective Offices/Ministries/Agencies for implementation. At this juncture I would like to call on all Cabinet Ministers to ensure that respective Ministries expedite the implementation of these Cabinet Decisions, if not already done.

Our ability to work in unison, driven by the common purpose of developing our Namibian House, has been the driving force behind the successes we have achieved during the Cabinet sessions of 2017.

Due to the hard work by the various Cabinet committees, who have applied their respective expertise, to provide much needed insight to aid the process of policy formulation, Cabinet has deliberated on several policy initiatives during the course of the year.

The Cabinet Handbook is explicit in its description of the responsibility which Cabinet holds in terms policy making, stating the following, "Success in

administering and executing the functions of the government depends very much on the effort that goes into the formulation of policy and implementation mechanisms. In this context therefore success or failure depends on the work of the Cabinet and the support staff within the administration”

Policy making is therefore an integral tool in terms of strengthening our Governance, Macro- Economic and Socio-Economic architectures. I have stated the importance of improving the efficiency of our processes, systems and institutions as well as the need to increase transparency and

accountability in Government, since these two variables connote trust.

With these thoughts in mind, I would now like to highlight some of the major policy initiatives considered and adopted by Cabinet during the period (February – December 2017).

ECONOMIC /FINANCIAL SECTORS

a) Introduction of the National Competition Policy for Namibia;

b) Revised Namibia Cooperative Policy;

c) Operationalization of the Public Procurement Act, 2015 (Act No. 15 of 2015)

d) Operationalization of Namibia National Single Window Environment;

- e) Draft Fifth National Development (NDP5);**
- f) Implementation of an EMPRETEC model for Namibia to Support Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development;**
- g) National Policy on Prospecting and Mining in Protected Areas;**
- h) Electricity Sector National Integrated Plan (NIRP), 2016;**
- i) Tax Recovery Incentive Programme;**
- j) Outcome of the 2017/2018 Mid-year Budget Review;**
- k) Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Rock Lobster for the 2017/2018 fishing season**

l) Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Horse Mackerel for 2018 fishing season;

and

m) Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for Deep-Sea Red Crab for the 2018.

SOCIAL SECTOR

a) Namibia Zero Hunger Strategic Review Report;

b) Revival of the National Food Security and Nutrition Council;

c) Youth Status Report in the Republic of Namibia;

d) Integrated Early Childhood Development (IEDC) Strategic Framework;

- e) Plan of Action for the implementation of the Concluding Observations made by the Committee that Monitors the Convention on the Elimination of the of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) (2017-2020);**
- f) Namibia Arts, Cultural and Heritage Policy;**
- g) Revised Language Policy for Schools in Namibia;**
- h) Revised National Policy on Human Wildlife Conflict Management;**
- i) Implementation Plan of the Blueprint on Wealth Distribution and Poverty Eradication**

PUBLIC SERVICE GOVERNANCE:

- a) Action Plan to Implement Strategies for containing the size of the Wage Bill in the Public Service;**
- b) Feedback on the Implementation of Cabinet Decisions for the period 1st April 2016- 31 August 2016;**
- c) Country Review Report of the Republic of Namibia for the 2010-2015 Review Cycle;**
- d) Asset Management Policy Framework; and**

e) Feedback on the Implementation of Cabinet Decisions for the period 1 September- 31st March 2017

HEALTH SECTOR:

- a) Accreditation of five (5) Regional Hospitals as Training Hospitals for Medical Interns and the Resourcing thereof.**

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

- a) Approval of the Social Media Use Policy;**
- b) Approval of the Government Communication Plan;**

c) Revised Information Technology Policy for the Public Service; and

d) Purchasing of Shares of Mobile Communication Limited

REGIONAL/ INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS:

a) Report on the 28th African Union Ordinary Session of Heads of State and Government;

b) Approval of Namibia's Draft Policy on International Relations and Cooperation;

c) Report on the Special Meeting of the Southern Africa Customs Union

**(SACU) Council of Ministers, held on
31 March 2017;**

**d) Report on the 61st Session of the
Commission on the Status of Women
(CSW 61) held at the United Nations
Headquarters, New York, 13-24 March
2017;**

**e) Report on the Southern Africa
Development Community (SADC)
Employment and Labour Sector
Meeting of Ministers and Social
Partners;**

LEGISLATION BILLS:

**a) Namibia Property Practitioners
Bill, 2017**

b) Amendment Bill of Wildlife Control Products and Trade Act, 2017

c) Namibia Post and Telecommunications Holding (NPTH) Dismantling Bill, 2017;

d) Mental Health Bill, 2017;

e) Prevention and Combating of Torture Bill, 2017

f) Vehicle Mass Bill, 2017; and

g) Roads Contractor Company (RCC) Judicial Management Bill, 2017.

These policy initiatives are informed and guided by the major policy documents, Vision 2030, National Development Plans, SWAPO Party Election Manifesto

2014 and the Harambee Prosperity Plan. I would like to thank all of you, together with your technical staff in your respective ministries, for the effort you have put into conceiving, formulating and actualizing these policy initiatives. Through your laudable endeavours, you have given further credence to the Harambee spirit.

As the SWAPO Party Government, we have made a promise to the Namibian people through our Manifesto and our promise is clear; to deliver prosperity by improving the quality of life of all Namibians. On the evidence provided by this year's Cabinet meetings, I am

confident that we have not wavered on this promise.

Like any noble cause, challenges and obstacles will always litter the path to success, but together, we have what it takes to persevere, overcome and succeed. As the saying goes, "We are not defined by our challenges but lifted up by them." As we prepare to draw the curtain on 2017, I encourage all of you to ponder this statement. Don't be defined by the challenges you face but be lifted up by them. The SWAPO Party Government will not be defined by the challenges it faces but it will be lifted up by them.

As I conclude my statement for this last Cabinet meeting of the year, let me wish all of you a peaceful and joyful festive season. May you all travel and arrive safe at you respective destinations. Get some good rest, because next year is the year of "RECKONING" I wish you all, a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you.