

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



THE PRESIDENCY

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

16 March 2020

Check Against Delivery

Good afternoon,

I called this Press Conference to announce the revised Government structure for the second Term of Office, effective 21 March 2020.

I expressed in the **2019** State of Nation Address my intent to cut down on the number of Government Ministries, to achieve better alignment between sectors.

In making these changes I have been mindful of the need to optimize the structure of Government to give fresh impetus to our plans for economic recovery and growth, while balancing the need for renewal and continuity.

The new structure will be as follows:

THE PRESIDENCY consists of the President and the Vice President, and is served by Ministers, Special Advisors and other staff, as may be appointed by the President, as per Article 27(A) of the Constitution. There will therefore be a **MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY** who will be responsible for Parliamentary affairs and will act as the interface between Regional Governors and the President, following the necessary legislative amendment.

To reaffirm our commitment to fighting poverty and inequality, Gender mainstreaming and Poverty Eradication have been merged and elevated to the Presidency. The Vice President, assisted by a Minister, will oversee the cluster of **GENDER EQUALITY, POVERTY ERADICATION & SOCIAL**

WELFARE including Social Safety Nets such as the Food Bank, Old Age Social Grants and grants for Orphans & Vulnerable Children, Disability and Marginalised communities. We aim to achieve efficiency gains through this consolidated approach.

To stimulate private sector led economic growth and recovery, the function of Investment Promotion and SME Development will be elevated to the Presidency, as a matter of priority. For this purpose the Namibia Investment Centre will be replaced by the **NAMIBIA INVESTMENT PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT BOARD**. The head of this entity will be appointed by the President. The Board is mandated to promote a conducive business environment and market Namibia as a favourable investment destination.

The **PRIME MINISTER** is the leader of Government business in Parliament & coordinates the work of Cabinet as the Head of Administration and the Public Service. The Prime Minister oversees the implementation of Cabinet Decisions; the implementation of the Performance Management System and Disaster Risk Management with the support of the Deputy Prime Minister.

1. MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & COOPERATION

(Not Changed)

This Ministry will be entrusted with the primary function of formulating, promoting and executing Namibia's foreign policy and managing

Namibia's bilateral, regional & multilateral relations.

2. MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, IMMIGRATION, SAFETY & SECURITY

This Ministry is the custodian of the National Population Register and facilitates lawful migration. This Ministry has been merged with the former Ministry of Safety & Security. It will now carry the mandate of internal security, maintain law and order and provide safe custody of offenders.

3. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE & VETERAN AFFAIRS

This Ministry is responsible to defend the territorial integrity and national security interests of Namibia and to administer the operations of the Namibian

Defense Force. This Ministry has been merged with former Department of Veteran's Affairs and will continue with the administration of Veteran Grants.

4. **MINISTRY OF FINANCE** (Not Changed)

This Ministry is the custodian of the Government's physical and financial assets. As Treasury, it regulates the receipt, banking and use of State monies and controls and regulates the disposal of State assets. It sets financial policy and prepares the annual fiscal budget.

5. **MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIALISATION & TRADE**

This Ministry promotes economic development by setting and implementing Industrial Policy to boost domestic productive capacities and diversification.

It is also responsible for providing clear Investment Policies and legislative frameworks to boost Namibia's competitiveness and ease of doing business. SME development presents enormous potential for job creation and for this reason the SME development mandate formerly housed in this Ministry, has been elevated to the Presidency through the Namibia Investment Promotion & Development Board.

6. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER & LAND REFORM

This Ministry is mandated to promote the productivity of the agricultural sector towards food security and sustainable land and water resources management. This Ministry is a merger with the Ministry of Land Reform and will continue to administer equitable access to land, considering

the synergies in land, agriculture and natural water resources.

7. MINISTRY OF URBAN & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (Not Changed)

The Ministry is tasked with the coordination of Decentralization and the facilitation of development to ensure sustainable livelihoods in urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Another important mandate of this Ministry is the provision of decent shelter and sanitation. I reiterate, that the situation in informal settlements is a humanitarian crisis and we have to mitigate rural-urban migration, by ensuring appropriate town planning and the development of national housing infrastructure. Traditional Authorities have an important role to play and this Ministry is charged to ensure compliance with the law.

8. MINISTRY OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

(Not Changed)

The provision of quality and accessible public health services are vital for a healthy and productive nation. We are in the midst of a public health emergency in the form of Corona Virus and Hepatitis E. This Ministry maintains the public healthcare infrastructure, delivers public health services and must respond with appropriate measures to control disease outbreak, so as to ensure the welfare of the Namibian people.

9. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, ARTS & CULTURE (Not Changed)

This Ministry is mandated to deliver accessible, equitable and quality education to the Namibian Child. In addition to preserving Namibia's cultural

heritage, a crucial dimension of this Ministry is also to unlock the economic value of Arts and Culture to create pathways for our young people.

**10. MINISTRY HIGHER EDUCATION,
TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION (Not Changed)**

Namibia must adapt its policy environment to seize opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Therefore, this Ministry is charged with the development of a framework for an environment that is conducive for technological and scientific innovation, to propel Namibia towards a knowledge economy. I have underscored the importance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training and this sector,

must deliver the skills that are relevant for the Jobs of Today and Tomorrow.

11. MINISTRY OF WORKS & TRANSPORT (Not Changed)

As custodian of national infrastructure development, this Ministry is tasked to develop, maintain and repair public transportation and infrastructure. An important aspect of this Ministry going forward is to develop industry standards for professional Bodies and to facilitate the capacity building of Namibian contractors by leveraging procurement, to develop local capabilities.

12. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY & TOURISM

This Ministry is mandated to promote biodiversity conservation, through sustainable utilization of

natural resources and to develop a sustainable tourism industry that contributes significantly to the livelihood of all Namibians. Namibia is highly exposed to the effects of Climate Change and there is need to expedite the implementation of Climate Resilient Strategies and unlock economic opportunities through Greening Namibia.

13. MINISTRY OF MINES & ENERGY

(Unchanged)

Namibia is endowed with energy and mineral resources that must be exploited in a sustainable manner. This Ministry is mandated to create an attractive investment and regulatory environment where these resources can be extracted and beneficiated, to contribute towards inclusive growth and shared prosperity. This Ministry is also

charged to accelerate rural electrification, and development of small-scale miners.

14. MINISTRY OF FISHERIES & MARINE RESOURCES (Unchanged)

The Blue Economy presents a new frontier of opportunity for employment creation and economic growth. This Ministry promotes and conserves marine resources to realize maximum value and oversees the sustainable management, protection and utilization of marine resources on land, rivers and the ocean. This is a sector under review and reforms will be deepened to ensure benefit for all Namibians.

15. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE (Unchanged)

To uphold Rule of Law, this Ministry is mandated to deliver quality public legal services, to enhance

access to justice, and to ensure effective regulatory frameworks and compliance. Moreover, this Ministry oversees the independent and impartial resolution of complaints relating to the public administration, review, reform and development of laws. This Ministry will provide administrative support to the **Attorney General**.

The Attorney General will be a professional person and not a Member of Parliament, but will be invited to Cabinet. The Attorney General serves as the principal Legal Adviser to the President and Government, exercising oversight responsibility for the Prosecutor General and serving as a repository of all Agreements signed and/or ratified by Namibia.

16. MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS & EMPLOYMENT CREATION (No change)

This Ministry is responsible for enhanced labour productivity, the promotion of harmonious industrial relations, maintaining social security oversight and employment equity. The Ministry will, in collaboration with industry, facilitate labour market reforms to remove barriers to employment creation and coordinate workforce reskilling for the Future of Work.

17. MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (No change)

The Ministry oversees the restructuring of State Owned Enterprises and ensures cost effective service delivery to unlock value for the

Shareholder. It further makes provision for the efficient governance of public enterprises and the monitoring of their performance to contribute towards economic transformation. As per the recommendation of the High Level Panel on the Namibian Economy, this Ministry will be phased out upon completion of its mandate.

18. MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH & NATIONAL SERVICE

(No change)

The development and empowerment of young people remains a Government priority. This Ministry has the frontline responsibility to coordinate and mainstream Youth programmes and activities across the public sector, to ensure the welfare of young Namibians. It also promotes sports development under the various professional

codes, and develops and maintains sports infrastructure countrywide.

19. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (No change)

This Ministry develops the national Information & Communication Technology strategy and promotes the accelerated use thereof. The Minister in this capacity will also serve as the Official Spokesperson of Government, coordinating information within Government stakeholders and communicating Cabinet decisions to the media.

This brings the total number of Ministries down to **19 Ministries**, from the current 26 Ministries. We have achieved this reduction of five (5) Ministries by

merging some existing Ministries to achieve better alignment where there was duplication in mandate.

I will, in due course announce the appointment of the Vice President, Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister. After being sworn-in on 21 March 2020, I will then announce appointment of Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

I thank You