

**PRESS STATEMENT BY HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER ON THE OCCASION OF OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE
PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 12 APRIL 2017**

1. I wish to thank you, members of the media, for making time available from your busy schedule to attend our press conference today. Allow me at the outset to assure you that Namibia highly values the work of the media as an important partner in the process of national development.
2. I am pleased to be in Beijing today on the invitation of His Excellency Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China. Beijing is a city close to my heart as I spent a considerable amount of time here in Beijing in September 1995 to work on during the historic Conference on Women which adopted the Beijing Platform for Action for Equality, Development and Peace. The legacy of the Beijing Platform for Action lives on and its historic contribution to gender equality is recognized throughout the world. China indeed plays an important role as one of the great powers in questions of enhancing status and role on women throughout the world.
3. Today, we are concluding an important three day visit to Beijing. Our visit was aimed at having discussions with my host, Minister Wang Yi, on a range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interests and common concern to China and Namibia. As a developing country, China is very much aware of the concerns and aspirations of other developing countries. Furthermore, during this visit we reaffirmed our long standing relationship that dated back from the days of Namibian liberation struggle.
4. Many of you are well aware that Namibia experienced a devastating drought over the last three years which have caused tremendous hardship to our population. In 2016, our President declared a State of Emergency to the drought. We thank the Government of the People's Republic of China, who have responded by donating 4000 metric tons of rice to Namibia and pledged further another consignment to the value of RMB 20 million. This is testimony of a strong relationship where China has proven on multiple times that is a true friend of developing countries.
5. In same vein, Namibia is facing a shortage of medical doctors. We are grateful to count on the support of china, as there are currently over 100 Namibian students training in China, as medical practitioners. That number is growing as many self sponsored students came to China by choice. This will greatly alleviate the shortage of medical doctors in the near future.

6. We committed ourselves to strengthen our economic cooperation, with particular focus on investment and trade in the areas of manufacturing, value addition, agriculture, among others. To that end Namibia welcomes Chinese companies to forge Joint Ventures with Namibian companies for tangible investment to be realized.
7. To strengthen our relations further we agreed to continue the exchange of visits at different levels, both Government, Party and people to people. Therefore, Namibia welcomes the Chinese people to visit our beautiful country not only for conferences and business, but as tourists.
8. At multinational level, as developing countries and members of the G77 and China, we agreed to continue cooperation in the implementation of agreed developmental Agenda such as AU Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Developmental Goals or Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. We also agreed to continue exchanging views on matters of common concern, to ensure that we maintain peace and security in Africa and in the world at large. We further called on all those engaged in conflicts to find solutions through negotiation, as opposed to war.
9. We confirmed our determination to continue to work together towards the reform of the UN Security Council and bring about a democratic and fair representation for Africa in this important organ of the United Nations.
10. Finally, let me assure you that Namibia is home to sizeable number of Chinese speaking residents. The Chinese people are always welcomed to visit Namibia and establish business or come as tourists.
11. I thank you.