

**MOTIVATION STATEMENT BY HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION, TO INTRODUCE THE POLICY ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION TO THE NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017**

**Honorable Speaker,  
Honorable Members of Parliament,**

As indicated in my statement introducing the Budget for Vote 07, I now have the honor to table and introduce the outcome of the Foreign Policy Review Conference held July last year. This outcome document was made possible by the foundation laid in the White Paper on Namibia's Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Management, adopted by Parliament in 2004.

In this context, allow me to pay tribute to Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, First Foreign Minister, who initiated the process for the said White Paper. I also wish to pay tribute to the late Hidipo Hamutenya, second Foreign Minister, who completed the exercise then. Their leadership together with all those who contributed to than White Paper, is commendable and highly appreciated.

**Honorable Speaker,  
Honorable Members of Parliament,**

The review exercise the Ministry undertook in July last year, was necessitated by the rapidly changing global environment and the impact that such global changes have on Namibia. Given the dynamic character on international relations, we also had to align our foreign policy objectives to address our increasing and evolving domestic priorities in line with Namibia's National Development Plans, which is geared towards poverty eradication, the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), and the AU Agenda 2063 as well as the UN Agenda 2030. The document in front of you, was updated to reflect these changes, as follows:

From thirteen chapters with forty-nine sub-titles, it now has ten chapters with eighty-seven subtitles. The main purpose of the review was two-fold. First, to review and update what was contained in the original White Paper. Second, to add new and emerging issues that were not there then, but have become prominent and important in the conduct of relations amongst states and international organizations.

Chapter 2 on **Principles and Practice of Diplomacy** was updated to reflect the complexity of the conduct of diplomacy, including new and emerging transnational issues such as cyber security, migration, human trafficking, energy, water, poverty eradication and drought, some of which gave rise to measures such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which were not addressed in the previous Chapter.

Chapter 3 on **Namibia's Diplomacy: A Historical Background**, was enriched to include historical facts that were not addressed in the previous Chapter, such as the significant contribution by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations Institute for Namibia (UNIN) to Namibia's capacity building in diplomacy, as well as the high level talks between Theo-Ben Gurirab and Pik Botha within the framework of the Walvis Bay and the Offshore Islands negotiations, which led to the initialling of the 1991 agreement on the demarcation and delimitation of the Orange River boundary between Namibia and South Africa.

The Chapter on 'Confluent Streams of the Foreign Policy' was updated to reflect the recognition of SWAPO as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people during the liberation struggle, and recognizes the role played by the the Frontline States and Nigeria, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the Non Aligned Movement (NAM), Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), as well as non-governmental Organizations. It recognizes the armed clash at Omugulu-gwOombashe on 26 August 1966, which marked the beginning of the armed struggle of Namibia. It also address the opening of Diplomatic Missions and the renaming of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation in order to reflect the changes in the international arena and the Country's response thereto. This chapter also adds an elaboration of the principles of Namibia's foreign policy by the former President, as well as the former Ministers of Foreign Affairs i.e. the late. Hidipo Hamutenya, Hon. Marco Hausiku and Hon. Utoni Nujoma. This Chapter was integrated into other chapters in order to reduce repetition.

Chapter 4 on **Contemporary Global Factors** was updated to reflect the following aspects, which were not addressed in the previous document: Environment, Human Security, Cyber Security, Terrorism, Multilateralism, Migration, and the United Nations Security Council Reform.

Chapter 5 on **Economic Diplomacy** was updated to reflect our resolve to raise the living standard of our people close to those in industrialised countries, a high-income economy by the year 2030, as we work towards sustained economic growth and sustainable development, adding the elements of engaging the business community in our efforts to address our domestic challenges, and positioning Namibia as a regional logistics hub and gateway to the SADC region and beyond.

Chapter 6 on **Issues of National Priorities** was also retained but updated and new and emerging issues were introduced such as:

- Agriculture
- Food Security
- Water
- Forestry

- Blue Economy Strategy
- Marine Resources
- Environment
- Climate Change (Global Climate Fund, Regional Hub)
- Tourism
- Urban and Rural Development
- Trade and Investment
- Infrastructure Development
  - Logistics Hub
  - Road Infrastructures/Transport Corridors
  - Rail Infrastructure
  - Aviation Infrastructure
- Mining
- Energy
- Oil and Gas
- Education
  - General Education
  - Higher Education
  - Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- Youth Empowerment
- Culture and Sports

The previous document made reference to Poverty Reduction, while the reviewed document is addressing Poverty Eradication, in line with our National Development objectives and the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP). Similarly, the document addresses Land Reform instead of Land Reform and Resettlement; ICT Infrastructure instead of the Promotion of Information Technology; Gender instead of Gender Equality and Equity, and Health instead of HIV/AIDS.

Chapter 7 on Bilateral and Regional Relationships changed to **Bilateral Relations and Cooperation**, and speaks directly to our priorities in terms of looking at our neighbours, the continent and the rest of the world. The previous chapter was more general in addressing our priorities. As such, the following aspects were introduced in the Chapter:

- Namibia and her Neighbours
  - Angola
  - South Africa
  - Botswana
  - Zambia
  - Zimbabwe
- Relations with the rest of Africa

In the same Chapter, the following issues were updated to reflect the current reality:

- Middle East
- Europe
- North America
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Asia and the Pacific

The Chapter on Some Key Areas of Multilateral Diplomacy changed to **Multilateral Relations and Cooperation**, and addresses Namibia's engagement in multilateral diplomacy. This is now Chapter 8. The following are the new issues introduced in this Chapter:

- Multilateral Partnerships
- SACU
- SADC
- Mainstreaming SADC Agenda into National Development Strategies
- SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan
- African Union
- African Union Agenda 2063
- Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries (MICs)
- Decolonisation
- Disarmament
- International Cooperation in the Development of Outer Space
- Human Rights
- African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)
- Peace and Security
- Contemporary Security Challenges

The following issues were retained, but were updated where necessary, to be current:

- United Nations
- Treaties and Conventions
- South-South, North-South and Triangular Cooperation
- UN Agencies and Our Social Agenda
- World Trade Organization
- Commonwealth
- Non-Aligned-Movement

As can be recalled, Namibia served as Rapporteur for the UN Conference on Women in Beijing, in 1995, a position that placed the country on the global agenda on the advancement of women. Similarly, during Namibia's tenure of the UN Security Council, 1999 to 2000, Namibia made history by initiating UN Security Council resolution 1325 on

Women Peace and Security. These were among many events on the global stage that Namibia engaged in and in turn raised Namibia's profile while at the same time advancing Namibia's national interests.

As a result of the importance of promoting and protecting our image globally, a new Chapter (Chapter 9) on **Public Diplomacy and Namibia's Image** was introduced in the revised document, and reflects the following sections:

- Public Diplomacy and Namibia's Achievements
- Mechanisms of Public Diplomacy
- Namibia's Image

The Chapter 'Towards a Professional Service' changed to **A Professional Diplomatic Service**, to incorporate elements that were not addressed in the previous Chapter. While the previous Chapter was only limited to 'Recruitment & Training, Performance Appraisal, Motivation & Morale, and Professionalism and Specialization,' the new Chapter (Chapter 10) includes broader elements that are addressing all aspects required in the running of a Professional Diplomatic Service such as:

- Diplomatic Service of Excellence
- A Professional Diplomatic Service
- Management of Resources
- Cost Effective Foreign Policy
- Welfare of Namibian Nationals Abroad
- Diaspora
- Posting Policy
- Diplomatic Missions/Effective Diplomatic Representation

**Honorable Speaker,  
Honorable Members of Parliament,**

During the Foreign Policy review Conference, the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation displayed an exhibition depicting the evolution of the Namibian Foreign Policy. The exhibition showed pictures narrating the story of Namibia's engagement with the SADC region, the African continent, UN, NAM and the rest of the world during and after our national liberation struggle. The Exhibition also highlighted the role of Namibia in SADC election observer missions as well our participation in both AU and UN peacekeeping operations.

The Foreign Policy Exhibition Booklet that has been availed to all Members of this August House is a repeat of the exhibition that was displayed at the Conference as well as photos of the entire Conference from the opening session, workshops and closing session. We hope that it will be a useful research material as well as memorabilia.

**Honorable Speaker,  
Honorable Members of Parliament,**

I also have the honor to inform you that following the Foreign Policy Review Conference held in Windhoek during July 2016, and taking into account the overarching interests of the public, especially the youth and academia, the Ministry decided to introduce Lecture Series in order to inform and engage the public about contemporary global events.

The purpose of the Lecture Series is to encourage the public to be involved in shaping Policy on International Relations (Foreign Policy), in relation to Namibia's development agenda as outlined in our Vision 2030, NDPs, the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto, the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), complemented by the AU Africa Agenda 2063, and the UN 2030 Development Agenda.

It is expected that the Lecture Series will provide an opportunity to reflect on how best we can continue to effectively serve the interests of the Namibian people, contributing to their security, prosperity and wellbeing, as well as the promotion of the country's values, through its active international engagements.

Presenters will be drawn from Government (including Senior Management in MIRCO), the Association of Former Ambassadors (NAFA), various sectors of society such as academia, civil society, members of Parliament, private sector, political parties, youth representatives, Diplomatic corps, parastatals etc., and where possible, international experts.

The Lecture Series will be held on a quarterly basis, and it is expected that the venue for the Series will rotate, to include our University campuses in the south, north-east and northern Regions.

Therefore, following extensive deliberations within MIRCO, it was decided that the Lecture Series be named after an individual who has made a **significant** contribution to the development and implementation of Namibia's Foreign Policy. It was thus proposed that the Series be named after the first Foreign Minister of the Republic of Namibia, and 54<sup>th</sup> President of the United Nations General Assembly, namely, ***Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab***. I am happy to inform this Honorable House that, Cabinet has approved that the Lecture Series be branded the ***"The Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab Lecture Series."***

His Excellency, Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia will launch the "The Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab Lecture Series" at a date and time yet to be determined, and all members of the House are invited to make their contributions during these Series.

**Honorable Speaker,  
Honorable Members of Parliament,**

In conclusion, let me emphasize that, we are all Ambassadors of our beloved country Namibia. The national issues we deliberate here inform Namibia's Foreign Policy. I therefore, humbly employ you all, to seriously study the draft document for consideration at the appropriate time.

I thank you.