

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**STATEMENT BY:**

**HONORABLE NETUMBO NANDI - NDAITWAH ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE LAUNCH OF THE DR THEO-BEN GURIRAB LECTURE SERIES  
31 JULY 2017 AT COUNTRY CLUB**

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THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE DR THEO-BEN GURIRAB  
LECTURE SERIES 31 JULY 2017**

**Your Excellency Comrade Dr Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of  
Namibia and Madam Geingos, First Lady  
Former President of the Republic of Namibia, Comrade Hifikepunye Lukas  
Pohamba**

**Comrade Dr. Nickey Iyambo, Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia  
The Rt. Hon. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of the Republic of  
Namibia**

**Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly**

**Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council**

**Your Lordship, Chief Justice Peter Shivute**

In the interest of time, please allow me to respect the protocol that was established by the Director of Ceremonies.

On behalf of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, which I have the distinct honor and privilege to head, I wish to welcome His Excellency Comrade President, former President and all distinguished participants to this historic event, the launch of the Dr. Theo - Ben Gurirab Lecture Series.

The question might be asked, why the Lecture Series? In answering, our President, Namibia's Chief Diplomat will elaborate further on that. Let me however mention that, following the Foreign Policy Review Conference held from 25 - 29 July 2016, and taking into account the over subscription of all the workshops held then, the overarching interest of the general public, especially the youth and academia in global events and how they impact on our domestic policies, the Ministry of

International Relations and Cooperation decided to introduce Lecture Series, in order to inform and engage the public about contemporary global events.

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

Topics to be discussed during the Lecture Series will be based on contemporary global events. Presenters will be drawn from Government including Senior Management in MIRCOC, the Namibia Association of Former Ambassadors (NAFA), various sectors of society such as academia, civil society, Parliament, private Sector, youth representatives, Diplomatic corps, parastatals etc., and where necessary, international experts. The Lecture Series will be held on a quarterly basis, and the venues for the Series will rotate among the 14 Regions to ensure that no one should feel left out.

It is our hope, that interest will continue to grow and together we will maximize the benefits our country derive from our regional, continental and international engagements.

Once again welcome to the launch and we look forward to active interaction and enriching deliberations.

Comrade President, when something is closer to your heart you need not to organize, it comes on its own. When Comrade President said 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 will feel well in our programs, we were not aware that this event will also marks the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Pan African Women Organization. Though I am excited and happy to mark this day with such distinguished people, I will not go into details but rather leave it to the person I am going to introduce. Our main Speaker is one of the pioneers of Namibia's diplomatic activities. From Tsumeb, he had few months of diplomatic training in Bechuanaland (now Botswana, possible graduate in Belgian Congo (Now DRC) and in New York to serve as SWAPO petitioner while studying and now our number one Diplomat. I am talking of Cde. Hage G. Geingob President of the Republic of Namibia.

May I now invite all of you to join me as I invite H.E. the President to address us. Cde. President you are welcome to address and launch the Theo-Ben Gurirab Lecture Series.

**I THANK YOU!**