

**MEDIA STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE NETUMBO NANDI-
NDAITWAH, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION ON THE STATE
VISIT BY H.E. DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB, PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
28 MARCH- 02 APRIL 2018**

1. At the invitation of H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia paid a State Visit to China from 28th March to 2nd April 2018. Part of the significance of this State Visit lies in the fact that China being a power granted Namibia opportunity to visit China after the landmark Communist Party of China (CPC) Congress.
2. H.E. President Geingob was officially welcomed by H.E. Xi Jinping President of the People's Republic of China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 29 March 2018. President Geingob was accompanied by Madam Monica Geingos, First lady, Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Hon. Dr. Albert Kawana, Attorney General, Hon. John Mutorwa, Minister of Works and Transport, Hon. Alpheus !Naruseb, Minister of Agriculture, Water And Forestry, Hon. Tjekero Tweya, Minister of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development, Hon. Calle Schlettwein, minister of Finance, Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Hon. Obeth Kandjoze, Minister of Economic Planning, Special Advisors and Senior Government Officials.
3. H.E. Dr. Geingob also held separate meetings with Mr. Li Zhanshu, Chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPC), Mr Li Kegiang Prime Minister, Mr Song Tao, Minister of International Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee (IDCPC), all of whom have reaffirmed to implement decisions taken by the two Heads of State during the Official Talks.
4. The State visit was preceded by the Third Session of the Joint Commission on Bilateral Economic and Trade between Namibia and China, which assessed progress in the implementation of the previously agreed decisions. Co-Chaired

by Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation representing the Namibian side and Hon. Fu Ziyang, the China International Trade Representative (Ministerial level) representing the Chinese side. The Joint Commission reaffirmed the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

5. During the Official Talks, the two Heads of State expressed satisfaction on the current level of bilateral relations that is steadily growing from strength to strength. They emphasised the need to expand and elevate ties to greater heights in various sectors. Such sectors include and are not limited to Agriculture, Fisheries, Education and Training, Science and Technology, Tourism and Infrastructure development such as railways, harbour, Airport and roads.
6. The two Heads of State decided to elevate the bilateral cooperation framework between the two countries to a **Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership** that would be based on equality, mutual respect, reciprocal benefits and common development between the two countries.
7. H.E. President Dr. Geingob briefed his counterpart of Namibia's strategic plan to position herself to become a logistic hub in the SADC region, in this regard, the Chinese President reaffirmed China's support to Namibia. The improved mutually beneficial and financial cooperation between the two countries was discussed. On the one hand, Namibia's need to diversify and grow an export oriented economy was recognised, while on the other, China's ability as the second world largest economy to provide a significant market for finished goods and commodities, but also the provision of skills, technology and capital recognised. Namibia can benefit from deepened financial cooperation targeted towards industrialisation and improved productive capacity, economic diversification, infrastructure development in both the productive and social sectors, agriculture and skills and technology transfer. China in turn can utilise Namibia's strategic geographical location and market access into SACU, SADC, Africa and beyond.
8. In order to increase mutual cooperation in international affairs and to promote China-Africa and South-South cooperation, the two Heads of State agreed to advocate multilateralism and equality and jointly safeguard legitimate rights and interests of developing countries. They further agreed to maintain close

communication on other major issues such as climate change, counter-terrorism and transnational organised crimes.

9. With respect to (FOCAC), the two Heads of State re-affirmed their commitment to forge ahead with the cooperative and effective implementation of the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit. H.E. Xi invited H.E. President Geingob to the next FOCAC Summit to take place in Beijing in September 2018. H.E. President Geingob accepted the invitation.
10. H.E. Dr. Geingob extended an invitation to his counterpart to visit Namibia at a time to be agreed through diplomatic channel. H.E. President XI Jinping accepted the invitation.
11. H.E. Dr. Geingob also visited Nanjing, Suzhou and Shanghai. All those three places are strategic economic areas for Namibia, and Namibian business people have business contact from those three areas. H.E. the President visited some entrepreneurs and held meetings with leaders of the Government and Party in the three places. All have expressed willingness to facilitate cooperation between Namibian business people and their counterparts in those towns.
12. H.E. Dr. Geingob was conferred a Doctorate Honoris Causa by the China Geoscience University of Beijing. The First Lady Madam Monica Geingos was also conferred the Honorary Professor of the China Women's University. She is the first foreign personality to be given an award in the 70 years of the existence of this institution that was renamed in honour of the 1994 Beijing Conference on Women.
13. During the State Visit the following bilateral instruments between Namibia and China were signed:
 - Extension of an existing Agreement between the Republic of Namibia and the People's Republic of China on the Establishment and Operation of the China Space Tracking, Telemetry and Command Station in Namibia, signed by Hon. Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi, Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation. One part of the Command station is the

construction of the data receiving station in Namibia. Already, Namibians are being trained on space science at the Command station. Hence its extension will mean more Namibians will be trained in space science and Namibia can become a role player in space development for the benefit of human kind. In the same vein, **Namibia would expand its capacity in remote sensing and earth observation through the satellite data receiving ground station once constructed. With this facility Namibia would be able to monitor its seas, improve disaster management, and improve the urban planning and monitoring of its environment.**

- Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation Mechanism between The Export-Import Bank of China and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Namibia, signed by Hon. Calle Schlettwein, Minister of Finance. The envisaged financial cooperation would entail grants and concessional loans (or blended instruments), public and private investments, cooperation in tax and customs administration. Loan and grant agreements will be project specific and need to be agreed upon on a project by project basis. Conditionalities and loan terms, empowerment provisions, skills and technology transfers as well as sourcing and procurement rules must be included in order to ensure win-win impact. For now, no loan agreement has been entered into. As part of the Comprehensive, Strategic Cooperation Partnership between Namibia and China, strategic consultations in bilateral as well as multilateral financial matters will be conducted regularly.
- Protocol between the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry of the Republic of Namibia and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China on Inspection, Quarantine and Veterinary Sanitary Requirements for Beef to be Exported from Namibia to China. This Protocol was signed by Hon. Alpheus !Naruseb, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry. **Under this protocol, the Namibian beef will be free to enter the Chinese Market and Namibia would be the first African Country that will now be able to export its beef to China thus diversifying its market. This will also require Namibian farmers to be more innovative and produce more than before considering that one Province in China could have 20-80 Million people.**

- Extension of the drawdown period and repayment period of the interest free loan for housing stipulated on the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Namibia, signed by Hon. Calle H.G. Schlettwein, Minister of Finance.
- Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation of Grant between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Government of the People's Republic of China. On the Namibian side, this Agreement was signed by Hon Obeth M. Kandjoze, Minister of Economic Planning and Director - General of National Planning Commission. To a certain extent, this agreement is aimed at formalizing the implementation of Project already on course. Hence the RMB 300 Million that is part of the agreement is for the construction of data receiving ground station, 4 schools and other projects that will be mutually agreed.

14. H.E. the President was also accompanied by 70 business people under the leadership of the NCCI, who covered their own cost. Namibia business people were representing the sectors of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mining and mineral trading, Energy, Airport Management, hospitality and tourism, Medical services, laboratory equipment and optometry, Textile, clothing and garment industry, ICT and Engineering, Housing, construction and property development, Retail and general trading.

15. During the State Visit, three business forums were held, two in Beijing and one in Shanghai. This business forums were jointly organised by the Embassy of Namibia in China, Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development and NCCI acting in partnership with several Chinese sponsors and co-organisers. The three business forums offered a platform for networking between the Chinese and the Namibian business people. In Shanghai, H.E. President Geingob addressed the China-Namibia Business Forum that was attended by Namibian business people and over 300 Chinese business people.

16. The Namibian business people who accompanied H.E. President Geingob have also expressed deep satisfaction with their visit to the People's Republic of China.

17. The following Memoranda of Understanding between NCCI and Chinese counterparts were signed during the State visit.

- Memorandum of Understanding between Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Shanghai Federation of Industry and Commerce.
- Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation between Namibia Chamber of Industry and Touchroad International Holdings Group.
- China Council for the promotion of International Trade Shanghai Sub - Council and Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the purpose of developing the contacts both between institutions as a means of contributing to the development of trade, economic and investment relations between Namibia and Shanghai.
- A Memorandum of understanding between the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Beijing Urban Construction Road and Bridge Group CO. Ltd

18. The State Visit was a resounding success and will cement the on-going cooperation in wide fields particularly infrastructure, agriculture, finance, education and many others. H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob's leadership has facilitated the opening of doors. No doubt, China has a fast growing economy and soon it could become the biggest economy in the world. It is the single biggest market considering the 1.4 billion people. To that end, the whole world including developed countries are looking at China for business. Therefore, Namibia, as a country has to be strategic not be left out. The results of this State Visit put a great responsibilities on all the role players, both in Public and Private sectors to implement the outcome in the best interest of the Namibia people. In International Relations, no country can be seriously engaged in bilateral or multilateral relations, if nothing of interest to its country will emanate. Therefore, for Namibia, an opportunity has raised and we have to be strategic in engagement, for our economic diplomacy to bear fruit, as we seek prosperity for our people.

I thank you.