

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY
HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION AT THE 3RD DR. THEO-BEN GURIRAB LECTURE
THEME: "WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION: A
SUSTAINABLE PATH TO AFRICA'S TRANSFORMATION"**

NIPAM, WINDHOEK

25 JUNE 2018

Programme Director;

Distinguished Panelists;

Distinguished invited Guests;

The Media Fraternity;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I warmly welcome you all to the Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab Lecture. I would like to acknowledge the presence of our panelists, namely, Mr. Paulus Noa, Director General of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC); Ms. Leonie Dunn, Director Financial Intelligence Centre at the Bank of Namibia; Dr. Johan J. Coetzee, Senior Lecturer at the University of Science Technology (NUST); Ms. Charity Mwiya, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI), who are all going to enrich our discussions today.

This is the third Lecture organised by the Ministry. Today the focus is on the theme of the African Union for this year, which is: **“Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa’s Transformation”**.

The selection of the anti-corruption theme is pertinent as it raises one of the most pervasive scourges impacting on good governance and socio-economic development in Africa.

In fact, corruption undermines the very fibre of the “Africa We Want” envisioned in the African Union Agenda 2063. Corruption

exacerbates poverty and it deepens inequality by diverting money needed for healthcare, education and other essential services in society.

Corruption impedes economic growth and increases the costs of doing business. It distorts markets and brings about the malfunctioning state institutions and weakens governance.

It is a fact that corruption is not only limited to those in the public sector but cuts across all facets of societies, ranging from high-level political graft on the scale of millions of dollars to low level petty bribes.

Society cannot function equitably and efficiently when officials in the public and private sectors enrich themselves rather than performing their duties with integrity.

The answer is to root out and eradicate corruption at all levels and restore trust where it has been lost in our countries and the whole African continent. We must also know that corruption can be transferred into the continent and Africans must reject that.

Therefore, the role of each and every member of society is crucial if nations are to win the fight against corruption. We must also find a common understanding of corruption to avoid witch-hunt and character assassination.

National leaders of all kinds including government, corporate, religious, cultural, must lead by example and prove themselves

trustworthy, to restore people's faith in their own institutions and governments.

We need the youth to be on the forefront in the fight to curb corruption. We need civil society, a free press to continue doing their valuable work in bringing to light corrupt practices and holding individuals, businesses and government to account.

Most of all, we need a change of mindset and practices so that corruption can be rooted out of society. We must be honest and sincere to ourselves and others. I start with ourselves because all that we do, good or bad comes from inside us.

The fight against corruption must go hand-in-hand with sustainable development and strengthening of democratic governance and corporate institutions. This means, rejecting corruption and embracing the rule of law, accountability, transparency and good governance, both at the national and continental levels.

In his first statement to Parliament in 2016, H.E. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia endeavored to rally the nation behind a shared vision when he declared War on Poverty and Corruption, as these two issues are interlinked. It is only when we win over corruption and poverty that national sustainable development can be realised as well as AU agenda 2063.

To achieve sustainable results, regulatory instruments have been put in place to combat corruption nationally and continentally. In Namibia we have the Anti-Corruption Act under which the Anti-

Corruption Commission is established. At the continental level, there is the AU Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption adopted in 2003. Other important instruments include, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration; and the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development. In addition, the AU has established the Anti-Corruption Advisory Board; to Mr Noa the Director General of the Anti-Corruption Commission is a Chairperson.

However, despite Africa's progress in the fight against corruption, we still have a long way to go in addressing the challenge of illicit financial flows out of Africa. That means, a lot of money meant for the development of Africa is lost annually through sharp corrupt practices. This is indeed a matter of serious concern to Africa.

According to a report by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), during the period 2000-2015, net illicit financial flows between Africa and the rest of the world averaged US\$73 billion (at 2016 prices) per year through weak transparency and accountability mechanisms that allow tax avoidance, trade misinvoicing, abusive transfer pricing, and many other ways used to deny Africa to reap its resources dividends.

This parallel, is drawn to drive home the point that, if Africa addresses the issue of corruption, there would be more than enough resources to achieve our developmental aspirations, as envisaged in

the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030.

I must however caution that, stamping out corruption is not going to be an easy task given the fact that corruption does always fight back.

Therefore, Africa must not relent in its efforts to curb the ugly phenomenon of corruption. Namibia is committed to fulfilling its obligations and will continue to play its constructive role in this collective endeavor.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you, once again, for coming to attend this lecture. I am confident that we will have a fruitful discussion, and will have a lot to take-away and see you at the next lecture. I now declare the 3rd Dr Theo-Ben Gurirab Lecture officially open.

I THANK YOU