

REMARKS BY HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE SPANISH NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION, 11 OCTOBER 2018.

Your Excellency Mr. Javier Romera and Madam Borggreve;

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners;

Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I am happy to join you to today in commemorating the Spanish National Day, which is originally celebrated on 12 October, also known as **Fiesta Nacional de España**. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia and on my own behalf, I wish to extend best wishes to the people of Spain as you celebrate your National Day.

Namibia and Spain have deep and excellent relations that are multi-faceted. Namibia and Spain established diplomatic relations on 21 March 1990, and these relations have cemented over the years, with Spain maintaining her diplomatic Mission in Windhoek since 1990. This has set a strong foundation for the longstanding and mutually beneficial relations.

Spain being an important trading partner to Namibia, it remains one of the major consumers of Namibian fish and other fish related products. Of the main exports from Spain to Namibia includes products such as industrial machinery, leather, tiles and food products.

Namibia and Spain have also identified tourism, education, culture, agro-processing, manufacturing, and technologies for producing and managing renewable energy as priority areas for bilateral cooperation. Namibia's potential areas of cooperation with Spain are in the areas agriculture, particularly agro-processing, manufacturing, innovation and technologies for producing and managing energy and the tourism sectors. The construction of the first-ever Namibian asparagus agro-processing factory was launched on 24 September 2018 at Ruacana in the Omusati Region. Namibia highly appreciates the support to this project by the Kingdom of Spain, and we are happy that this significant project could be attained within the domain of Namibia-Spain cooperation.

We are looking forward to building upon this solid foundation. I am confident that with your support and our commitment, Your Excellency Romera, we will be able to both broaden and deepen our cooperation for many years to come.

On a lighter note, I am happy to note that a Namibian Chess Team will be participating in the World Cadet U8, U10, U12 Championships in

Santiago de Compostela (Galicia), Spain from 3-16 November 2018. We wish them success, but we also consider these events as major contributing factors towards the exposure of our youth to the global village, and as people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

With those brief words, I congratulate all the Spanish nationals and Happy National Day.

May I, now invite you all, to raise your glasses and join me in a toast?

- To the good health of Majesty Felipe VI, The King of Spain; and to His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia;
- the long lasting friendship between our two countries;
- to the happiness and prosperity of our peoples!

Salud!

I thank you!