

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**OPENING REMARKS BY. HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE
INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE NAMIBIA- GUINEA JOINT
COMMISSION OF COOPERATION**

6 MAY 2019

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Your Excellency, Mamadi Toure, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad of the Republic of Guinea

Distinguished Honourable Ministers Present Here

Distinguished Honourable Deputy Ministers Present Here

Your Excellency, Ambassador, Cheick Ahmed Tidiane CAMARA, Director General of International Organizations, In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad – and Head of Officials delegation

Ambassador, Selma Ashipala- Musavyi, Executive Director in the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation and Head of Official Namibian delegation

Ambassador, Trudie Amulungu, Namibian Ambassador Accredited to the of the Republic of Guinea

Distinguished Senior Officials of our two delegations

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I warmly welcome you to Namibia, my brother, Your Excellency, Mamadi Toure, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad and Co-Chairperson of this Inaugural Session of the Namibia-Guinea Joint Commission of Cooperation (JCC).

I equally welcome our colleagues, and other members of your delegation. I trust that you will have a pleasant and memorable stay in Namibia.

The people of Namibia feel honoured by your visit, and hold dear the support and solidarity received from the people of Guinea during the liberation struggle, as it reaffirms the existing excellent relations which helped us in sustaining the fight against apartheid and colonialism.

We fondly recall with appreciation and gratitude the gracious hospitality accorded to us during our visit to Conakry in 2018 when we accompanied our

President during the State Visit. The special warm reception was indeed a sign of our friendly and sisterly relations that so happily exist between our two countries.

Your Excellency, Minister Toure,

Our bilateral relations emanates from our historic ties dating back to the time of Namibia`s liberation struggle, when Guinea rendered much needed support to the people of Namibia through SWAPO.

These relations indeed have a special bond that need to be cherished and nourished through continuous engagements and have been characterized by a common vision and shared desire to strengthen cultural, economic and social cooperation, in the best interest of our Countries and peoples.

This common vision was indeed realized when the two of us signed the General Cooperation Agreement in Conakry in 2018. On our side, we look forward to reap more benefits form sectors such as;

- Works, Transport and Marine Cooperation
- Trade, Finance, Investments and SMEs Development
- Mines, and Renewable Energies
- Agriculture, Food Production and Forestry
- Cultural and Eco- Tourism
- Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare
- Share of best practices and benchmarking in Economic Planning
- Higher Education, Training an Innovation

It is equally imperative to highlight the following Namibian products as they possess market potential in Guinea; fish and fish products, beef, mutton, game meat leather and leather products, salt and other minerals. It is my conviction that Guinea will join our exclusive list of niche markets and serve as ideal export destination.

We equally look forward to receive the following products as imports in our retail stores from Guinea; processed cocoa products, cocoa paste, cocoa butter, chocolate, cocoa powder, root crops like yam, cassava, vegetable oil and seeds such as raw and processes shea nuts, cash nuts, oil palm, ground nuts, soya as well as apparel among others. It is our belief that through the Africa Continental Free Trade Area, we will be able to strengthen trade among ourselves as Africans. As that is the only way we can create the Africa we want as envisaged in AU Agenda 2063.

Your Excellency,

You will agree with me that the JCC is a platform that we can use to review the bilateral cooperation as well as to explore possible areas of cooperation. Therefore, this Inaugural session is a vital step forward in our relations as it gives a concrete meaning to the General Cooperation Agreement in order to develop tangible deliverables in various sectors which will be beneficial to both our Governments and peoples.

I am informed that since our last meeting in Conakry, there are a number of pending technical visits and other envisaged bilateral programs. Therefore, I call upon those respective sectors to accelerate the finalization of outstanding programs for the mutual benefit our countries.

The onus is on us to prove to our people that our cooperation can bring about tangible improvement in their daily lives. We need to place emphasis on projects that are feasible, yet that will profoundly contribute to their well-being.

Your Excellency, Minister Toure and Dear Brother,

Our common vision is that we build a mutually reinforcing relationship that is based on exchange of views and experience as well as direct economic cooperation.

Both our countries face the same challenges such as poverty and unemployment, we therefore need to work closely with each other to find solutions to these socio-economic challenges. Namibia will continue to work with Guinea and the rest of Africa in achieving the African Union's objectives and especially the causes of building unity, peace and social justice on the continent.

It is therefore against this background that I wish to reaffirm my Government's desire to further consolidate the bilateral cooperation and solidarity that exist between our two countries and peoples.

I look forward to fruitful deliberations during this Inaugural Session of our Joint Commission of Cooperation.

Thank you!