

# 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 9<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE NAMIBIA-ZIMBABWE  
JOINT COMMISSION OF COOPERATION,  
WINDHOEK, 24 JULY 2019**

Hon. Lt. Gen (rtd) Dr Sibusiso Moyo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe and co-Chair of the Commission,

Honourable Ministers from both Delegations,

Ms Balbina Daes Pienaar, Ambassador of Namibia to Zimbabwe

Ms Rofina Chikava, Ambassador of Zimbabwe to Namibia,

Distinguished Senior Officials of both delegations,

Distinguished Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome Honourable Sibusiso Moyo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe and his delegation to Namibia, and Windhoek in particular. Honourable Minister, feel free and enjoy your stay making Namibia your second home away from home.

This 9<sup>th</sup> Session provides us with yet another platform to further consolidate the excellent bilateral relations, longstanding bonds of friendship, solidarity, good neighbourliness and mutually beneficial cooperation existing between our two countries and peoples.

The signing of the General Cooperation Agreement, which established the Namibia-Zimbabwe Joint Permanent Commission of Co-operation on 17 August 1992, laid the foundation for increased cooperation between our two countries. It ensures that we further strengthen our bilateral relations, which are based on a shared history of our struggle against colonialism and foreign domination.

Honourable Minister,

The Joint Permanent Commission (JPC) framework is a clear testimony of the importance that our two countries attach to the deepening and broadening of cooperation between our two countries for mutual benefit. It provides us with an opportunity for regular consultations in order to review existing programmes and identify new areas of cooperation.

Honourable Minister, be assured that Namibia attaches great importance to this Joint Commission of Cooperation to address the common challenges that hinder economic growth and those that hamper the upliftment of the living standards of all our peoples.

Honourable Minister,

Our officials have been meeting since Monday to make the necessary preparations for our meeting today. I am informed that they discussed various issues for bilateral cooperation and mutual interest.

As we take stock of the progress we have made in the implementation of the decisions of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of our Joint Commission, we need to work very hard and use this opportunity to explore new areas to enhance our bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade, education and culture, transport, agriculture, health, human resources development and other important fields.

In this context, we should use this Session to exchange ideas on how best we can jointly promote trade, investment and joint venture between Namibia and Zimbabwe for the benefit of our peoples. These efforts would lead to the realization of the potential for increased bilateral trade between our two countries.

It is also important to develop complementary investment strategies to enable our two countries to create synergies in industrial capacity. This holds potential in the area of hospitality and tourism, extractive industries, fisheries and aquaculture, infrastructure development, transport, finance and telecommunications.

In pursuing our common objectives, I am confident that Namibia and Zimbabwe will continue to work together, in facing the daunting challenges posed by HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases which negatively affect the economic and social conditions of our people.

Honourable Minister,

This meeting is taking place at an important juncture in our bilateral and regional relations.

As SADC Member States, our two countries adhere to SADC ideals that our nations and peoples can grow stronger and indeed prosper when our citizens join in a common cause to address common challenges and to take advantage of shared opportunities. Regional integration is therefore crucial in the process of economic and social development of our countries, and should therefore be pursued with vigour and determination for the benefit of all our peoples.

Our two countries have been engaged in efforts of addressing the political and security challenges in the region, notably, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Madagascar and Lesotho. The situation in Madagascar has improved significantly, but we still have challenges in the DRC and Lesotho, as well as new challenges from Comoros.

At this juncture, I wish the Republic of Zimbabwe well as your country assumes the Chairpersonship of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. Honourable Minister, count on Namibia's support as we consolidate the democratic gains we have recorded in our region.

Namibia and Zimbabwe remain active members of the African Union, the United Nations, and other international organizations, where we collaborate closely.

We have worked together with other African countries to shape and determine the Common African Position with regard to the reform and democratization of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council.

Comrade Minister, despite creating momentum with the successful hosting of the *SADC Solidarity Conference* with Western Sahara earlier in March this year, we should leave no stone unturned in our campaign for the plight of the Saharawi people, including our Palestinian comrades, in their quest for self-determination and statehood.

On the economic front, it was just on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July in Niger, that African Heads of State and Government has launched the African Continent Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) an instrument that is aimed at facilitating trade between African Countries with no hindrances.

It is therefore important that within our bilateral cooperation our two countries must be ready to play a role in the operationalisation of AfCTA as that is the way Africa's Agenda 2063 can be realised.

Honourable Minister  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Before I conclude, I wish to urge our two delegations to focus on the progress that has been attained, so far, in various sectors, the challenges that we may be facing as well as ways in which we can improve the modalities of implementing the agreed areas of cooperation.

At this stage, I now invite my colleague, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Honourable Moyo, to make his opening remarks. Honourable Moyo, you have the floor.

I thank you!