

## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**TOAST BY HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION ON  
THE OCCASION OF THE 208<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF  
THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA  
24 JULY 2019, WINDHOEK**

Your Excellency, Mr. Omar Berroterán Paredes  
Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to Namibia,  
Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of Urban and Rural  
Development;  
Honourable Zephania Kameeta, Minister of Poverty Eradication and  
Social Welfare;  
Honourable Laura Mcleod-Katjirua; Governor of Khomas Region;  
Your Worship Muesee Kazapua, Mayor of the City of Windhoek;  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;  
Distinguished Guests;  
Representatives of the Media;  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon,

The National Anthem of Venezuela sings of “Gloria al bravo pueblo que el yugo lanzó, la ley respetando la virtud y honor” which in English translates to Glory to the brave people who shook off the yoke, Respecting the law, virtue and honour. It is fitting tribute to Simon Bolivar who exemplifies every word of the National Anthem of Venezuela.

It is, therefore, a pleasure for me to be with you all today as we celebrate the 208<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of the Independence of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela .

On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the Government and People of Namibia, and on my own behalf, I wish to extend my warmest congratulations and sincere best wishes to the people of Venezuela. It was on this day (05 July 1811) that the freedom, unity, solidarity and promising future of all the people of Venezuela was laid.

**More importantly, today's celebration also happens to coincide with the birth date of Simon Bolivar, also known y as *El Libertator*, or the Liberator, a Venezuelan military and political leader who led the liberation of what are currently the states of Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Panama from the Spanish Empire.**

**Your Excellency,**

**Without going into too much detail, I deemed it necessary to take a brief look at the life and legacy of Simon Bolivar, in order to understand the relevance of what he stood for, today: Simon Bolívar was born into a wealthy, aristocratic family in Caracas, Venezuela, on July 24, 1783 and was sent to be educated abroad at a young age, first in Spain, and later, when he was 16, in France. It was here that he was introduced to the ideas of the French revolution and philosophers such as Voltaire and Montesquieu. It is worth noting that, although Bolivar was an admirer of both the U.S. and French revolutions at the time, he differed, in political philosophy, from them on two matters: First of all, he was staunchly opposed to slavery, and, secondly, while he was an admirer of U.S. independence, he did not believe that its governmental system could work in Latin America. He**

**therefore claimed that the governance of heterogeneous societies such as Venezuela would “require a firm hand.” His political beliefs later motivated him to overthrow the reigning Spanish regime in colonial South America, culminating in the victory at the Battle of Carabobo in 1821, which effectively made Venezuela an independent country. Due to his historical relevance as a key element during the struggle for independence in South America, Simon Bolívar’s legacy, today, forms an integral part of the national identities of Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.**

**Given the common history of our struggle against colonialism, I believe that it is a very fitting tribute to this great leader that one of the streets of the City of Windhoek is being renamed in his honour today.**

Your Excellency,

The people of Venezuela like any other people on earth are duly entitled to sovereignty and self-control without interference from outsiders. We therefore reject any attempt to impose solution from outside contrary to the wishes and aspirations of the Bolivarian people of Venezuela.

Namibia is following the current developments in Venezuela very closely and is encouraged by the discussions between representatives of H.E. President Maduro and members of the opposition that are currently being held in Barbados. It is my hope that, in the same way that the actions of Simon Bolivar ushered in a new era in Latin America, and Venezuela in particular, that the

current discussions will serve to usher in a new era of stability, healing and economic recovery for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Your Excellency,

Bilateral relations between the Republic of Namibia and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela are excellent and our two countries are continuing to work together to expand and explore potential areas of economic cooperation.

In this way, we have witnessed a number of interactions and exchanges of high level visits between our two countries. Last year, in October 2018, we were honoured to welcome Mr. Yuri Pimentel, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and this year, in March 2019, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Venezuela, H.E. Jorge Arreaza, visited Namibia *en route* from South Africa. He was accompanied by Deputy Minister Yuri Pimentel. Currently, the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Honourable Christine //Hoebes, is attending a meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Caracas, Venezuela, from 17 to 24 July 2019.

Your Excellency,

Allow me to conclude with quotes that reflects the character of El Libertator, Simon Bolivar “If Nature is against us, we shall fight Nature and make it obey.” This describes brave character of Simon Bolivar and as a patriot he said: “If my death contributes to the end

of partisanship and the consolidation of the Union, I shall be lowered in peace into my grave.”

*Muchas Gracias!*

*I thank you!*