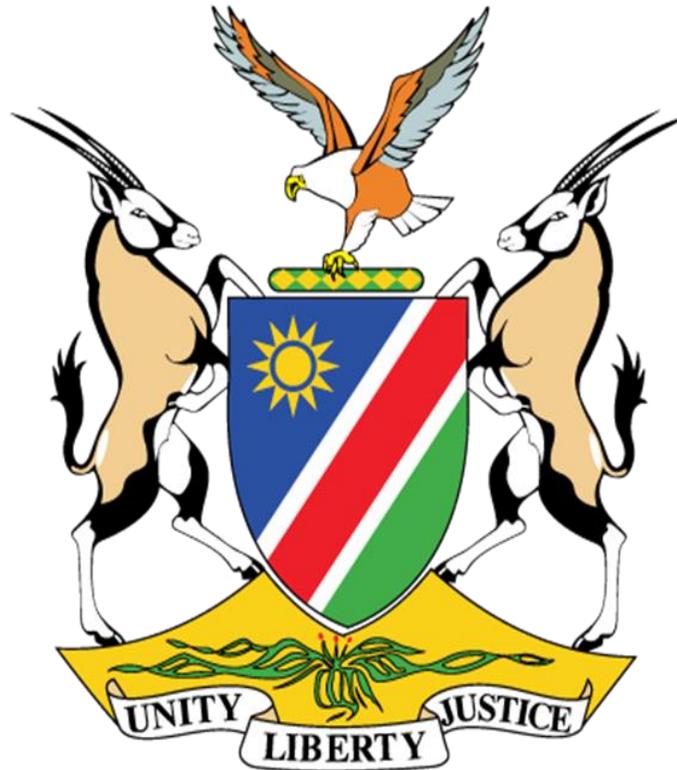


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION END OF YEAR BRIEFING FOR
DIPLOMATIC CORPS, 22 NOVEMBER 2019**

**Director of Ceremonies,
Honourable Christine //Hoebes, Deputy Minister of International
Relations and Cooperation
Ambassador Tuliameni Kalomoh, Special Advisor to the Minister
Your Excellency, Claurinah Tshenolo Modise, High Commissioner of the
Republic of Botswana and Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps,
Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Heads of Regional and International Organizations
Senior Official from MIRCO
Distinguished invited Guests,
Members of the Media Fraternity,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. It is always a great pleasure to engage with you at this platform. Let me therefore welcome you all, particularly those Heads of Mission and International Organizations, who were accredited following our meeting in July 2019. As His Excellency the President indicated during your accreditation, we count on non-resident heads of mission to be regular visitors to Namibia. Please do make Namibia an integral part of your diplomatic tour, in order for us to enhance our relations and bilateral cooperation.

Your Excellencies

2. As you may recall, in May 2019, H.E. President Hage Geingob declared a state of emergency due to the drought situation that affect the whole

country, the worst in 90 years. Following that declaration I briefed Your Excellencies on the matter. From the onset, allow me to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the positive response we received from your countries and organisations. Those donations continue to help us as we provide drought relief to the targeted members of our communities. Initially for food distribution the target was 257 383 beneficiaries or 42 899 household, the number has increased and currently food relief is being distributed to 908 018 beneficiaries translated to 172 938 household. I may inform that the donations received from local and foreign donors include N\$113 764 574.00 in cash, N\$15 536 155.70 in kind and pledges of N\$14 064 205.50 and N\$28 475 845. 50 in cash and kind respectively. We are extremely grateful for all those donations. It is our hope that sooner rather than later we get good rains.

BILATERAL COOPERATION

3. This annual get together has a special significance. It is an opportunity for Namibia to show you how much we value your work as diplomats. Due to changes in Diplomatic personnel at various Missions that you represent here at the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, it has not been easier to make new contacts. Similarly, it has not been simpler to always find mutually convenient time to share information and exchange ideas as regularly as we may desire. Nonetheless, the ‘slow art of diplomacy’ retains its fundamental value as your ever growing work continues to be highly acclaimed by our government and people. Diplomacy is the skill of continuous

engagement. That is why we all need to keep the lines of communication open.

4. We need one another to deal with the pressing challenges of today that include poverty and hunger, climate change and conflicts are. They affect us all, whether directly or indirectly, and this requires us to join hands in taking appropriate action whether bilaterally or through multilateral fora.
5. This coming together therefore, demonstrates the value we place on our bilateral and multilateral relations and cooperation. Diplomacy is the art of engagement; and this is why I find it valuable to engage you periodically.
6. Through State, Official and Working Visits, Joint Permanent Commissions of Cooperation, Intergovernmental Commissions and Working Groups, and interactions at different levels, we have continued to pursue our bilateral cooperation. Since our last meeting, H.E. the President had successfully outbound State, Official and Working Visits to the UNGA Russian Federation, Japan, Azerbaijan and the United Republic of Tanzania, where the latter hosted a successful SADC Summit in August 2019. During 2019, we held numerous bilateral engagements with your respective countries. We were honoured to host State, Official and Working Visits from Heads of State and Government from Guinea, Jamaica, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

7. Many of you organized for your Ministers and business delegations to visit Namibia to engage and explore business opportunities, thus continuing to pursue win-win cooperation. I wish to commend you all for the increasing cooperation in the areas of agriculture, water, renewable energy, maritime, water, ICT, women and youth empowerment, health and education, to mention a few. These are projects that are attributed to your continuous efforts and within the framework of our cooperation.
8. Equally, we hosted high level Ministerial Working Visits, Parliamentary Visits, Joint Permanent Commissions of Cooperation, Intergovernmental Working Groups and Political and Diplomatic Consultations. Through these bilateral engagements bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding were concluded, while others received renewed commitment to ensure our joint programs and projects are translated into tangible results for the mutual benefit of our peoples.
9. We are all aware of difficult economic situations that prevail in many countries of the world, including Namibia. This has had a negative impact on the extent of our engagements, but it is encouraging that, despite of all the impediments, our cooperation continued to flourish.
10. As a Government, we remain focused on addressing the challenges of poverty eradication, unemployment and growing our economic base. In

this regard, we are looking at optimizing opportunities for investment, particularly in the areas of energy, mining, infrastructure, fisheries and tourism. It is therefore incumbent upon us to engage each other in order to encourage mutually beneficial investments in those areas. I look forward to working with you to strengthen our cooperation in these sectors. In this context, I wish to refer to the Economic Growth Summit held this year in July and to express our thanks for your participation as well as for facilitating attendance of business people from your respective countries.

11. As you may recall, at the end of the summit an announcement was made to the fact that an amount of N\$14 Billion was committed for investment that can be targeted or to be identified. At the same time an amount of N\$22 Billion was pledged for both investment and financing. To bring about economic growth and to create the necessary jobs for sustainable development to be realised, agriculture, water, energy, housing among others were identified as the key area for focus. The High Level Panel the organiser and host of the summit is had at work for the realisation of the summit out come.

12. Namibia wish to acknowledge the partnership between the African Union and some of the countries you represent. These partnerships are an essential part of our cooperation and we must build further on them. Namibia remains ready and committed to work with your countries and organizations for the mutual benefit of our people. These partnership frameworks bear great potential for cooperation. In this context, it is

Namibia's views, that formulation of precise development proposals for cooperation with clear results oriented and measurable commitments, will deepen our trade, educate our people, and elevate our cooperation to the next highest level.

13. Namibia has been maintaining its commitment to the global collective efforts in making the United Nations a more effective, equitable and democratic organization. The country has dedicated itself to the promotion of the democratization of the United Nations through its membership to the Committee of Ten(C-10) on the UN Security Council Reform that is mandated by the African Union to canvass, advocate and promote the African Common Position as articulated in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration on the Security Council Reform.

14. With regard to peace and security, Namibia believes that prevention of conflicts must be prioritized and placed at the top of the World Agenda. For this reason the establishment of the International Women Peace Centre in Namibia is a contribution to international peace and security. I wish to take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation for the continued support as well as the indication of interest to the establishment of the Centre. Let me add that work towards the establishment of the Centre has commenced and is progressing well.

15. The focus of the Centre is amongst other to enhance the capacity of national, regional and international actors in multidimensional peace processes, to deepen understanding of critical discourse on peace and security issues and women contribution therein, to leverage networks of women mediators and negotiators and to advocate for women leadership and influence in decision making of peace and security and to measure that influence.

16. As a Member State of the AU, Namibia remains committed to the realization of the AU and SADC Integration Agendas, guided by its own Vision 2030, National Development Plan and the Harambee Prosperity Plan. It is my firm belief that with the support of the AU, SADC and other multilateral institutions, Africa will succeed in its long-standing efforts towards Africa regional integration.

ELECTIONS

17. In five days, Namibians will head to the polls to elect the President and Members of the National Assembly. As you may have realized, the election campaign has been on-going and, so far like in previous elections it has been peaceful. As you might have realized, election observer including those from SADC and the African Union have arrived in the country and have started their work. Some among you may be part of the observer teams and not being role player you may have a better view of the whole process. On our side we are convinced that Namibians will manage these election well just like before, thereby affirming once again, our enduring commitment to participatory democracy.

18. In conclusion, I look forward to continuing an open and regular dialogue with you on the issues that matter the most to Namibia and the countries and organizations you represent. It is our common duty, to ensure that our cooperation is to the benefit of all. Let's maintain the excellent communication, and I look forward to engaging you again early next year.

19. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you once again for unreserved cooperation during the year 2019, and look forward to work with you, to strengthen the already excellent relations that exist between Namibia.

I wish you joys festive season.