



Remarks by Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, MP

Speaker of the National Assembly

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY – 2017

“Get Engaged Now!”

14th September 2017

Hon. Members,

Country representative of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Staff of Parliament,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As earlier announced in the House, the Namibian Parliament is joining the rest of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) fraternity, to mark the International Day of Democracy, 15th September. We have opted to mark the day today because customarily, our Parliament does not sit on Fridays. This year’s theme for the day is *“Get Engaged Now”*.

Our quest for self-determination was founded on the urge to enforce justice for all, the dignity and freedom to exist as citizens of an independent nation. Post-independence, we continue to inculcate these ideals into our people by cultivating a democratic culture in our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Some people might view democracy as peaceful existence and freedom of speech, devoid of the violation of human rights. Others might view democracy as having functioning institutions in the country, which enforce the rule of law, where a society has legislation and policies in place that are enforced to ensure a functioning society. Whereas, others might view democracy as having a reliable source of income which ensures freely disposal income with the ability to spend on whatever one desires and a daily variety of food on the table whenever needed.

However, it is appropriate to indicate that democracy encompasses all these ideals and values. As a country, we are striving to ensure that we have a society where all these good things do exist. A society with the state of being mentally satisfied about democracy besides the tangible aspects. A democratic society where we pride ourselves to be Namibian citizens and to be human beings in the global village where everybody's existence is valued and appreciated.

Parliament is a representative of the people across the board; from the elites who argue democracy in terms of functional institutions, across the mix to the most humble citizens who argue democracy in terms of having a roof over their heads and food on the table. As Parliamentarians, we are the vanguard to ensure that this democracy in our country is firmly grounded. This is why we committed ourselves, together with the rest of the global village, as represented within the IPU family, to ensure full participation in the successful attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Hon. Members,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I commend KAS for this publication and I invite you to enjoy the reading of the outcome of our workshop.