



CHECK AGAINST
DELIVERY

VOTE OF THANKS
BY
HONOURABLE MARGARET N. MENSAH-WILLIAMS, MP
CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
AT THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBER
TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2017
WINDHOEK

- Your Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia;
- Your Excellency Madame Monica Geingos, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia;
- Your Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, Founding Father of the Namibian Nation;
- Your Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, Former President of the Republic of Namibia;
- Your Excellency Dr. Nickey Iyambo, Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia;
- Right Honourable Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia;
- Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation;
- Honourable Prof. Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly;
- Your Lordship, Chief Justice Peter Shivute;
- Your Honour, Judge President Petrus Damaseb;
- Honourable Chief Whips and Leaders of the Opposition;
- Honourable Members of Parliament;
- Your Excellences, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
- Distinguished invited Guests,
- Members of the Media;
- Ladies and Gentleman;

Good Afternoon. I stand here today in the National Assembly Chamber with a deep sense of honour and humility on behalf of all those who call Parliament their place of work, with a deep appreciation to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Namibia, for gracing us with his presence and for the forward looking statement. We celebrated Constitution Day on the 9th of February 2017. We will always be grateful to you, Your Excellency for the leadership you gave then during the drafting of the Constitution and your continuous leadership you continue to provide. Let us therefore continue to uphold our Constitution and may the letter and spirit of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia live forever.

Your Excellency;

As the year of re-dedication, Parliament will continue to work in the best interest of the citizens. As lawmakers we will continuously engage the citizens in the work of Parliament so that our debates and the resulting laws and policies reflect the will and aspirations of the citizens. All members of the two Houses of Parliament will continue to uphold and defend the laws that contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Yes, it is a fact that we each have a role to play if we are going to achieve these goals of a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable Namibia. This can only be achieved if, as a country we are pulling in one direction guided by the spirit of Harambee.

Our further vote of gratitude goes to His Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice of the Republic of Namibia, His Honour Judge President Petrus Damaseb and to the entire members of the Judiciary for your continuous positive support to Parliament. The Legislature and the Judiciary should continue to work together to ensure that laws passed by Parliament are reasonable fair and impartial.

Furthermore, I wish to express our warm appreciation to His Excellency Dr. Sam Shafishuna Nujoma, Founding Father of the Namibian nation and leader of the Namibian revolution and His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, our former President for captaining the Namibian House from independence into the mature democracy we are all enjoying today.

Similarly, I wish to thank you, Your Excellences Ambassadors, High Commissioners and members of the diplomatic corps for always gracing this occasion of the opening of Parliament with your presence and making our day a success. I know that certain activities of Parliament would have not been possible without your kind support.

Let me take a minute to appreciate all the spouses and families of the leadership of the country, starting from supportive First Lady Madame Monica Geingos to the spouses of the former Presidents, Former First Ladies Madame Kovambo Nujoma and Madame Penehupifo Pohamba and spouses of all Members of Parliament. Thank you for your moral support throughout the year.

Lastly, allow me to extend our gratitude to the members of our Protocol and Security Services, Parliament staff for their hard work in preparing for this important event in the parliamentary calendar.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank our sponsors, Namibia Breweries under the Olthaver & List Group and MTC Namibia for their generous contribution. In the same vain, let me convey our thanks to all the various Radio and TV stations, the print media and other media houses who continue to cover and publish our work. We thank you and value your support.

I would like to praise the Almighty God for the blessing bestowed upon our land, for the rain and the continued peace and stability. Let me leave you with the words of Mother Theresa "If each of us would only sweep our own doorsteps, the whole world would be clean". Meaning that if we all could clean our hearts and stop pointing fingers, we can make Namibia and the world an even more beautiful place to live.

Finally, on a lighter note, On behalf of Parliament I would like to congratulate our President and Madam Geingos on their wedding anniversary today. Our Prayer is for God to continue to bless you and grant you many more years of happiness together. Congratulations!

It is now my distinct honour and privilege to invite you all to join us for a reception in the Parliament Courtyard and Restaurant as soon as the President and his entourage leaves the Chamber.

I thank you!