



JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT FOR STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

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

Speaker of the National Assembly

11th April 2018

- **Your Excellency Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and First Lady, Madam Monica Geingos,**
- **Your Excellency Nangolo Mbumba, Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia,**
- **Your Excellency Dr. Nickey Iyambo, former Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia and Madame Iyambo,**
- **Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council and Mr. Williams,**
- **Your Lordship Justice Peter Shivute, Chief Justice,**
- **Rt. Hon. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister,**

- **Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Relations and Cooperation,**
- **Hon. McHenry Venaani, Leader of the Official Opposition in Parliament,**
- **Hon. Members of Parliament,**
- **Your Lordship Justice Petrus Damaseb, Deputy Chief Justice,**
- **Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Former Speaker of the National Assembly,**
- **Hon. Asser Kapere, Former Chairperson of the National Council,**
- **Your Worship Mr. Muesee Kazapua, Mayor of the City of Windhoek,**
- **Your Excellences, Ambassadors and High Commissioners and, Members of the Diplomatic Corps including UN Agencies,**
- **Distinguished Service Chiefs,**
- **Mrs. Rosemary Jane Katjavivi, my dear wife,**
- **Eminent Invited Guests,**
- **Staff of both Houses of Parliament**
- **Members of the Media,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On my own behalf and that of Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council, I extend a warm welcome to all of you here this afternoon at this joint

sitting of Parliament. As usual, I need to apologise for squeezing you inside this small chamber due to circumstances beyond our control. Kindly bear with us for whatever inconvenience you might experience. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the fact that whereas in the past we did not have Joint Rules to guide joint sittings of Parliament, it is encouraging to note that we have now finalized them and they are due to be endorsed shortly.

- **Mr. President,**
- **Hon. Members,**
- **Distinguished Invited Guests,**

In accordance with Article 32(2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, each year during the consideration of the official budget, the President and the Cabinet shall attend Parliament. During such a session, the President shall address Parliament on the State of the Nation and on future policies of the Government. He will also report on policies of the previous year and avail himself/herself to respond to questions that may be put to him/her.

Your Excellency, let me take this opportunity to once again, welcome you to the Parliament Building, in general, and to the National Assembly Chamber of our Parliament, in particular.

Hon. Members of Parliament, it is now my distinct honour and privilege to invite His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, to address the Parliament and the people of Namibia on the State of the Nation.

After the President's Address

- **Your Excellency,**

On behalf of the Hon. Chairperson and on my own behalf, let me express our deepest gratitude and appreciation on behalf of all Parliamentarians here present, for your very forthright presentation on the subject matter. This was indeed a very informative and in-depth analysis on crucial issues confronting our nation. Furthermore, you have informed us that the country is facing particular challenges but they are not insurmountable.

As such, this is a message of hope that will certainly inspire us all to make our individual and collective efforts towards a prosperous future.

Honourable Members, His Excellency the President is now available for questions as per Article 32(2) of our Constitution and during his interaction with the Hon. Members of Parliament, Rule 110 of our Standing Rules and Orders will be in force.

After Responses to Questions

Your Excellency, allow me once more, on behalf of the Members of Parliament and the Namibian people to thank you.

The Sergeant-At-Arms will now lead the procession from the Chamber and the Hon. Chairman and I, will escort His Excellency the President. I ask the Hon. Members to rise and remain standing while His Excellency leaves the House.

Adjournment