

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY  
H.E, DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB, PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE NEWLY  
CONSTRUCTED PASSENGER TERMINAL AT  
WALVIS BAY AIRPORT  
WALVIS BAY**

**July 22, 2016**

*Check against delivery*

**Director of Ceremonies;**

**Honourable Alpheus !Naruseb,**

**Minister of Works and**

**Transport;**

**All other Honourable Ministers**

**and Deputy Ministers present;**

**Honourable Cleophas**

**Mutjavikua, Governor of the**

**Erongo Region;**

**His Worship Immanuel Wilfred,  
Mayor of Walvis Bay;**

**Members of the Diplomatic  
Corps;**

**Members of the Uniformed  
Services;**

**Chairperson and Directors of  
Namibia Airports Company;**

**The Chief Executive Officer of  
Namibia Airports Company;**

**Erongo Regional Co-Ordinator  
of the SWAPO Party and  
Representatives of other  
political parties;**

**Members of the Media;**

**Distinguished guests;**

**Esteemed "Baaienaars";**

**Ladies and gentlemen.**

**Today marks a milestone in the development of aviation infrastructure in our country.**

**The government's commitment and prioritisation of transport infrastructure is evidenced in major investments in the expansion, upgrade and construction of aviation, rail, road and port infrastructure.**

**This terminal building sets Walvis Bay Airport on course to become Namibia's second international airport. The cargo handling capacity is highly beneficial for industries, particularly the fishing and mining industries.**

**Namibia can now boast of having another facility which meets the international benchmarks of functional efficiency and operational safety for airports. This highlights the undisputable fact that Namibia is a nation on the march towards prosperity. A nation that is able to build world-class**

**infrastructure is a nation on the  
march.**

**Our National Development  
Plans and the Harambee  
Prosperity Plan are all clear on  
the importance of infrastructure  
development. To quote from the  
Harambee Prosperity Plan,  
*“Modern and reliable***



***infrastructure is critical for high and sustained economic growth.***

***Without it, almost everything in the economic value chain tends to be slower, less reliable and more expensive.”*** This new

**facility is a shot in the arm for our economy as it will boost efficiency and speed in the**

**movement of passengers and cargo.**

**As Namibians, we have always prided ourselves on the quality of our infrastructure. This is corroborated by global rating agencies which have positively rated Namibia's infrastructural development. In the 2015**

**Africa Competitiveness Report,  
Namibia was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> best  
country in Africa in terms of  
infrastructure while globally,  
we are rated ahead of BRICS  
powerhouses such as Brazil and  
India.**

**Over the past several months, I  
have had the opportunity to**

**travel to various African destinations. This has enabled me to witness, first-hand, how every country I have visited has and continues to make significant investments in infrastructure, particularly the upgrade of airport terminals and runways. These countries are**

**pleasant reminders that Africa is indeed on the rise.**

**It has been said that, “*Without continual growth and progress, words such as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.*” If we want to retain and improve our positive developmental ratings, then continual growth is the answer.**

**If we want to eradicate poverty and improve the economic livelihood of our people, then continual growth is the answer.**

**If we want to successfully steer our country towards a future of shared and sustained prosperity, then continual growth is the answer. As Government, we cannot and will**

**not allow our growth to stagnate. This is why infrastructure development will remain an important part of our developmental policy.**

**Every cent of public funds that goes into infrastructure development needs to be well spent. This means optimal**

**procurement processes which ensure that government obtains best value for public funds. This means there is no room for procurement processes which lack fairness or cost sensitivity. This means there is no room for inexperienced or incompetent contractors who miss deadlines and deliver low quality**



**infrastructure. Most  
importantly, best value for  
government money means  
there is no room for the Mr. and  
Mrs. Ten Percents who solicit or  
accept bribes.**

**At times, we are quick to paint  
all public procurement as**

**corrupt. This is neither true, nor possible.**

**What is true is that we will never stop the whispers and the speculation.**

**What is true is that corruption is a cancer that requires early intervention to prevent it from spreading and turning malignant.**

**What is true is that  
transparency and accountability  
are the greatest weapons  
against allegations of  
corruption.**

**We are currently rated by  
Transparency International as  
the 4<sup>th</sup> most transparent African  
country. The Harambee**

**Prosperity Plan aspires for us to become Number One. The only thing that stands in between our aspirations are those who seek to enrich themselves at the expense of the masses. We have come too far as a country to allow a few corrupt minded individuals to undermine the**

**economic aspirations of an entire nation.**

**Let us walk the talk of the Harambee Prosperity Plan and ensure effective service delivery through building the necessary infrastructure in a transparent and accountable manner!**

**Effective Governance is a pre-**

**condition to socio-economic development so it is not an exaggeration to say that the corrupt are enemies of peace, stability and development.**

**As a city that positions itself as the gateway to the SADC region, it is only fitting that Walvis Bay is endowed with modern**

**transport infrastructure. We have already witnessed the extensive expansion of the port over the past several years. Today, we witness the expansion of the Walvis Bay Airport and in the future, we will witness a railway from Walvis Bay to Botswana. They say that not planning is planning to fail.**

**We are clearly planning to succeed and Walvis Bay can indeed declare itself as a gateway city to SADC.**

**I would like to commend Honourable Minister !Naruseb and his team, the Chairperson and Board of the NAC as well as all the other stakeholders**



**whose efforts have resulted in the creation of this magnificent piece of infrastructure. Big things can be achieved when we all Harambee, pull together, in the same direction.**

**I look forward to touring this facility to inspect some of the modern and high tech amenities**

**that I have been informed about. You have heard me on a number of occasions talk about the fact that it is easy to destroy but it is very difficult to build. Well, that applies in this context as well. Facilities such as this new terminal building have taken planning, time and money to build. This is our facility, a**

**symbol of national development and growth. Let us exercise a zero tolerance for vandalism and ensure that this facility is always clean and presentable.**

**It has been said that “he who loves his country best will strive to make it best”. Let the inauguration of this new terminal be a signal to all of us**

**who love this country; this  
house we call home; the  
Namibian House; that together  
we can achieve our dreams;  
together we can make Namibia  
the best.**

**I thank you.**