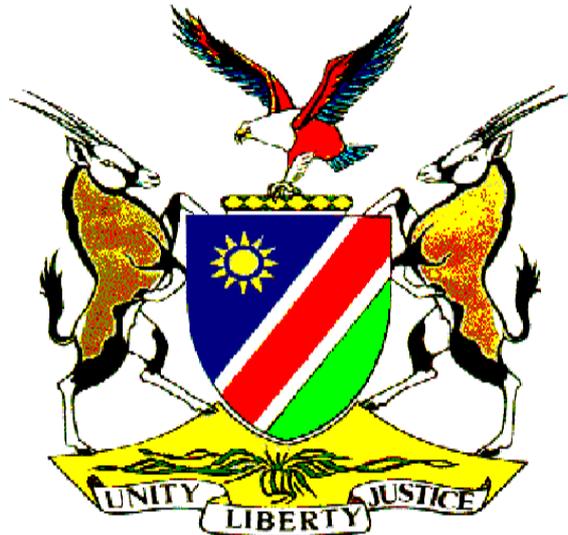


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY

HIS EXCELLENCY DR HAGE G. GEINGOB,

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

AT THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF THE DUNDEE PRECIOUS METALS

TSUMEB ACID MANUFACTURING PLANT

APRIL 6, 2016

TSUMEB

Check against delivery

Director of Ceremonies;

**Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of International Relations and Cooperation;**

Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment and Tourism;

All other Ministers present;

Honourable Henock Kankoshi, Governor of the Oshikoto Region;

All other Governors present;

**Mr. Rick Howes, Chief Executive Officer and President of Dundee Precious
Metals;**

**Mr. Zebra Kasete, Managing Director of Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb
as well as the entire staff;**

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to thank you most sincerely for having accorded me the opportunity to be a part of this milestone in Namibian investment and mining technology. Today's official opening of the Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb's state-of-the art Acid manufacturing Plant, here in Tsumeb, is a momentous occasion for the people of this town. It marks a mile-stone in the life of a smelter that has been operating in Tsumeb since the 1960's. Over the years, it has taken on various forms, and under various ownership structures. Today, it is in the hands of globally renowned owners, and I have the confidence, that under the management of Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb, this smelter will remain a mainstay of the economy of the Oshikoto Region and Namibia as a whole.

Yesterday, during my State of the Nation Address, I introduced the Harambee Prosperity Plan, a culmination of over 12 months of hard work which began as soon as I set foot in State House. It is a comprehensive blueprint for the Namibian House, aimed at presenting the first practical steps on how we intend to deliver on our promise of prosperity over the next four years.

Bringing about prosperity and fighting poverty requires all members of the Namibian House to pull their weight in the same direction. This includes Public sector, private sector, civil society as well as our visitors from abroad. I am therefore delighted, to witness the completion of this project, which is a product of over four years of hard work which was jointly undertaken by the Government of Namibia and the private sector, in the form of Dundee Precious Metals, with input from the local political leadership, the Unions, and the local host community, here in Tsumeb. To me, this is a prime example of the Harambee spirit, in which we pulled in the same direction as on in order to establish a win-win outcome.

As you may know, this Acid plant was constructed following numerous complaints that were received by the Government from residents of Tsumeb over time. The original complaints in 2011, were that the Tsumeb Smelter, was emitting "arsenic dust" which was adversely affecting the lives of company employees, the community living in Tsumeb, as well as the environment of Tsumeb. The community members made known their complaints to their Government at both the local and national levels around November of 2011.

Government heard these complaints and decided to address the problem. The Cabinet, at the time, tasked the line minister, to investigate the matter and report back. The Hon Minister, with the support of UNDP, contracted a Consulting Team to undertake the urgent assignment.

The consultants' investigations started in November 2011, and concluded in April 2012, and a findings report was submitted to the Prime Minister. This report, which is readily available, made several observations and conclusions regarding the state of the Tsumeb Smelter.

Despite the various problems noted in the report, it was agreed that each one of these problems could be resolved and that there was no need to close the Smelter down. The Cabinet directed that each of these problems be addressed in the shortest possible time, to ensure that Namibian and indeed international standards would be attained in the operations of the Smelter.

Following the Cabinet Decision to improve the Tsumeb Smelter operations, a lot of work has taken place from 2012 to date. These operations have all been aimed at modernizing the infrastructure of the smelter. During this period, there has been very a high level of interaction between the Committee of Cabinet, its Technical Committee, and the Dundee Precious Metals management. This was in order to ensure that the work going on met Government standards and requirements.

I am also aware of medical health survey of all the Smelter workers, both permanent and those contracted to work here, which had the objective to determine the health status of all Smelter employees. I am looking forward to the release of the findings of this survey as it will help us to further safeguard the occupational safety of our workers, who form the most integral component of our economy.

This project is one of the largest capital intensive investments in Namibia. Dundee Precious Metals have installed modern high technology equipment that is of a world class standard, to ensure that the problems that the Tsumeb community complained about in 2011 are comprehensively

addressed. This investment is expected to ensure that there will not be any emissions of sulphur dioxide into the air through the furnace stack, into the Tsumeb town, or within the work area of the Smelter.

The total investment made here over the period 2012 to 2016, is 2.6 billion Namibian Dollars. That is for the construction of the Acid Plant, but the overall investment at the Smelter totals 3.9 billion Namibian Dollars. It is clear that Dundee Precious Metals would not have made an investment of this magnitude if they had any doubts about the long term viability of operating in Namibia. Their decision to invest is yet another endorsement of the manner in which our Government continues to support the promotion of investment in the mining sector by creating a stable political and conducive business climate within Namibia.

Today, we can confidently say that the Tsumeb Smelter is close to full compliance with Namibian standards pending the finalization of the certification process. I expect this process to be concluded expeditiously. I am aware that the sulphuric acid to be produced here will be bought by our Uranium mine operators on the coastline. Over the past several months I have paid a visit to a number of mines, including the Husab Mine near Arandis which is another one of our large investments in the mining sector. It is therefore pleasing to note that our calls for increased beneficiation and value addition in the mining sector are being implemented by investors. The Acid produced here, will also create a business opportunity for TransNamib and other companies in the Namibian economy. These are the type of investments we value. Investments that produce positive spillovers into the rest of our economy.

I have been informed that the Acid Plant will be run by a young Namibian female chemical engineer, Ms. Barcelona Plaatjies - Omake! I am told she is highly qualified and talented and has recently has been given additional responsibilities on top of her role as Manager of the Acid Plant, to act as

the Director of Operations. We are proud of you and we certainly wish you the very best. May you live up to the saying that reads as follows, "A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform." May your leadership help create, nurture and transform the Tsumeb smelter, so that it may continue to be a symbol of our industrial prowess and pride.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Minister of Environment and Tourism, and his Colleagues in the Committee of Cabinet tasked with this responsibility, namely the Ministers of Health and Social Services; Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation; Mines and Energy; Agriculture, Water and Forestry; Industrialization, Trade and SME Development and Office of the Attorney General; their Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee, the ownership and management of Dundee Precious Metals, the Unions as well as the Tsumeb community members for a job well done. You have overcome all obstacles, all differences, pulled in the same direction for the sake of national progress. You are all exemplars of Harambee.

With those few remarks, it is now my honour and distinct pleasure to officially inaugurate the Tsumeb Smelter Acid Manufacturing Plant and declare the facility officially open for production!

I thank you.