

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT MEDIA**

**RELEASE**

***(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)***

**13 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**WINDHOEK**

## Notes on the media briefing of 09 September 2016 with President Geingob on the eve of his departure to the US

***These summary briefing notes primarily deal with the matter of the trip to the United States for bilateral, academic and business engagements, and his address to the UN General Assembly***

**Windhoek, Namibia,** The President spent over an hour on several current issues of national import:

1. The nationwide ballot being conducted on whether the teachers would engage in a nationwide strike action or not over the current salary increment negotiation deadlock;
2. The concerns raised around the recent Fitch ratings of the economy and its implications;
3. The plans and details of the trip to the USA from 10 September with a final engagement on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2016.

We wish to reiterate the salient points made on the trip as follows:

1. That President Dr. Hage G. Geingob will be on official business to the United States of America departing 10 September (allowing for travel across the Atlantic with a mandatory rest for crew in Cape Verde for 8 hours, resulting in 2 days of travel). The final engagement is a public lecture at Harvard University on 28 September. President will return thereafter to Namibia.
2. Excluding the 4 days of travel to- and from the US, the total number of days away from home does not exceed 2 weeks.
3. Significant efforts were made at cost savings on this trip and include, *inter alia*:
  - Reduction of the total delegation size to a maximum of 33 people (inclusive of security detail) all of whom **will not** be travelling at the same time or be in the US at all times. Delegates, including Ministers, would arrive and leave for home as and when they are required. Other than joining the President on some of his official engagements, the Cabinet Ministers have their own invitations such as to AGOA or the UN Committees in their own formal capacities. To that end they will thus not be travelling with the President all times.
  - The President chose cheaper alternative accommodation in a modest apartment at a cost of USD 1166 per night compared to the Waldorf Astoria where suitable accommodation would have costed USD10 000 per night. It is worth noting that accommodation in Manhattan becomes prohibitively limited and thus expensive during the Annual UN General assembly dates.
  - Reduction in crew costs associated with flying the President to the America's was also effected. It is conventional practice that 2 sets of

crews would be required to fly the President with an advance crew positioned halfway on the trip 2 days in ahead of arrival at refueling stop-over incurring commercial flight, SnT and hotel costs. To reduce SnT, hotel and commercial flight costs of a second crew the President chose to travel with one set of crew and allow them to undertake the mandatory rest for 8 hours enroute (as dictated by International Aviation rules).

4. This will be a packed programme of high-level engagements both at the UN and on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly with bilateral discussions requested by many world leaders, the North American business sector and academia.

#### **A. This week's public and on the record engagements worth highlighting are:**

##### **OFFICIAL OPENING of UN General Assembly 2016**

**Today 13 September** - The 71<sup>st</sup> session of United Nations General Assembly will open today with which the President and the First Lady will be attending.

##### **ENGAGING KEY POLICY MAKERS AND THINKERS IN WASHINGTON DC**

The President will officiate at a major forum organised by the Constituency for Africa (CFA) that will set the agenda for the next US American Administration on Africa-US Investment and Trade relations. CFA is successful lobby group on key trade relations with the continent for the past 25 years. They are hosting a Forum in Washington, DC this week that will be attended by leading Congressmen and women and Senators across party divide, scholars, students and the public.

1. On Wednesday, 14 September, President Geingob will be the Keynote Speaker on behalf of Africa at the CFA 2016 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series at a roundtable session entitled: *"Increasing US-Africa Trade and Investment"*. The session will run from 0900 to 1200 with the President as the main discussant.

**At 14:30 to 15:30** local time in Washington, DC, during the same day, President Geingob will be a special guest on the Voice of America (VoA) Live Show called *"Straight Talk Africa"* hosted by a leading broadcaster Shaka Ssali and is entitled *"A conversation with the Namibian President Hage Geingob"*.

NBC has been offered to carry the feed live for all Namibians to share in the discussion.

**At 16:00**, President Geingob will also conduct a recorded media interview with Bloomberg Media stating Namibia's case as an investment destination and as a hub and entry point to SADC. This recording is also a critical component of the US-Africa Business Forum to be jointly hosted by the US Department of Commerce and Bloomberg Philanthropies in New York City next week. President Geingob will be an

important guest at that occasion as well.

2. On 15 September at the University of George Washington Elliott School of International Relations, President Geingob is again invited to address the Africa Policy Forum and co-chair that meeting of key policy makers, scholars, students and the general public.

**B. Next Week's key issues:**

1. Guest at the Clinton Global Coalition Annual Convention
2. Guest of President Barrack Obama at the official Annual dinner
3. Delivery of his formal address to the UN General Assembly on 21 September.
4. Key note address at the Namibia Investment Forum on 22 September, which is a curtain raiser for the main Investment Conference in Windhoek in November. After that the President and the Ministers of Mines and Energy, Finance, Home Affairs, Labour and Industrial Relations, Economic Planning and industrialization, Trade and SME Development will field questions as part of a panel discussion. Namibian businesspersons accompanying the President will also conduct One-on-One meetings with their American counterparts.

From the Namibian side the NCCI will be lead by its current President Sven Thieme who will also officiate at the business forum as part of the panel discussion.

*(Please find the further list of other businesspersons confirmed to attend below)*

In recognition of the increasingly important role that the President plays across Africa and in world affairs, Ivy League universities of Columbia (Monday 26 Sept) and Harvard (Wednesday 28 Sept) have invited President Geingob to address and audience of scholars, students and the general public on his vision of a new Africa. This is a rare honour bestowed only on those leaders of the world whose ideas are considered relevant for our time and future of the world.

**/END/**

---

**Media Contact:**

Albertus Aochamub  
Press Secretary, Statehouse, Republic of Namibia  
+264811002002  
[aaochamub@op.gov.na](mailto:aaochamub@op.gov.na)

---

**Attachment 1: Updated Preliminary List of Confirmations by Proposed Business Delegation to New York, Curtain Raiser Event, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016**

<b>Invitee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>
1. Mr Sven Thieme	Executive Chairman: O & L	Confirmed
2. Mr Bisey Uirab	CEO: NamPort	Confirmed
3. Clive Johnson	CEO of B2Gold (based in Toronto)	Confirmed
4. Ms Foibe Namene	CEO: ECB	Confirmed
5. Mr. Pinehas Mutota	ECB	Confirmed
6. Mr. Petrus Amukutuwa	ECB	Confirmed
7. Mr Simson Haulofu	CEO: NamPower	Confirmed
8. Mr Junius Mungunda	CEO: Standard Bank	Confirmed
9. Mr David Nuyoma	CEO: GIPF	Confirmed
10. Mr. Quinton van Rooyen	Executive Chairman of TrustCo	Confirmed
11. Mr. Chris Jacobie	Trustco	Confirmed
12. Mr Jan Joubert	Trustco	Confirmed
13. Mr Digu //Naobeb	CEO: NTB	Confirmed
14. Mr Tarah Shaanika	CEO: NCCI	Confirmed
15. Mr John Endjala	Executive Chairman: J & P	Confirmed
16. Ms Kauna Ndilula	CEO: Business Financial Solutions	Confirmed
17. Mr. Paul Smit	Chairman: Trans Namib	Confirmed
18. Mr Gisbertus Mukulu	CEO: NHE	Confirmed
19. Matti Amukwa	Chairman of the Confederation of Namibia Fishing Associations	Confirmed
20. Mr. David Aikinin	Managing Director of Namibia Property Development (Affordable Housing Construction and development)	Confirmed
21. Ms. Gabriela Kandolf	Manager of ANGA's PRODUCTS:	Confirmed
22. Mr Danie de Wet	General Manager: Accolade Properties Namibia (Pty) Ltd	Confirmed
23. Mr Stanley Nick Katzao	Executive Chairman: Namibia Feedlots (Pty) Ltd	Confirmed
24. Mr Brynard Kotze	Brynard Kotze Architects Inc.	Confirmed
25. Mr Gerhard Van Der Merwe	Brynard Kotze Architects Inc.	Confirmed
26. Mr Martin Inkumbi	CEO: Development Bank of Namibia	Confirmed
27. Mr Andreas Nelumbu	Commissioner: Namibian Police	Confirmed