

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA, PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CHILDREN
CHRISTMAS PARTY AT OKANGUDI**

19 DECEMBER 2014

**OKANGHUDI
OHANGWENA REGION**

**Check Against Delivery*

**Director of the Ceremonies,
Honourable Governor of Ohangwena Region,
Comrade Usko Nghaamwa,
Honourable Regional and Local Authority
Councillors,
Esteemed Religious, Traditional and
Community Leaders,
Esteemed Principal and Teachers of Okanghudi
School,
Dear Residents of Okanghudi and the
surrounding areas,
Dear Children,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Within a period of one week, Namibians of the
Christian faith will join other believers around
the world to celebrate Christmas or the birth of
Jesus Christ. I am, therefore, delighted to be
here today to celebrate an early Christmas with
the children of Okanghudi and surrounding
communities. Over the years, I have hosted
Christmas Parties for children in different
communities around the country.**

This year, I decided to do it here at Okanghudi Combined School. It is a great pleasure for me to see all the young people who are with us here today. I trust that you will enjoy yourselves and have a wonderful day today.

Christmas is a special time of the year for us because it is the time we spend time with our families and friends. It is also a time when our young people are on school holiday and spending time with their families.

Dear Children,

The end of the year examination for Grade 10 and Grade 12 where announced yesterday. I, therefore, take this opportunity to congratulate all the learners who performed well in the examinations. I also encourage those who did not perform well to work harder and demonstrate greater dedication to their school work.

I would also like to express gratitude to the teachers in general and to the teachers of Okanghudi combined School in particular, for their dedication toward educating our future generation.

Education is the key to a better future. It is for this reason that our Government over the years has invested substantial public resources in the education sector. The Government will continue to ensure that new classrooms, teachers' houses, libraries and laboratories have been built at various schools in different parts of the country, including Okanghudi Combined School. Substantial resources have also been spent on the provision of text books in order to improve the performance of our learners. Our goal is to improve the quality of our education system and the performance of learners at all levels. This is the only way in which our nation can achieve our national development goals and objectives as outlined in our National Development Plans and Vision 2030.

Director of Ceremonies,

Our Government remains committed to improve the delivery of essential services to all our people. We will continue to work hard in order to develop our rural areas and find solutions to the challenges affecting our communities in order to improve the living standards of our people.

As you may be aware, my second and last term as President will come to an end on 21st March 2015, when I will hand over the nation's leadership to Dr. Hage Geingob, who was elected as the next President of our Republic on 28 November 2014. Dr. Hage will continue with the programmes of the SWAPO Party to develop this country further. We are proud that the elections were held in a peaceful manner and that our country continues to enjoy peace and stability.

Dear Children,

I take this opportunity to wish you an enjoyable Christmas with your families. I also urge you to respect your parents and give them the assistance they need at all times.

My message to you at this special time of Christmas is that may peace reign in our hearts at all times. May we all do our part to contribute to peace and stability in communities. This is a vital pre-condition for social and economic development.

On this note, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I thank you.