PRESS STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT ELECT DR. HAGE G
GEINGOB

DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2015

VENUE: CONSTITUTION ROOM

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

I would like to thank you all for coming to this press conference and would also like to
wish you all a Happy New Year. Last year, we conducted peaceful and credible elections,
being the sixth since Independence. We also had the distinct honor of being the first
African country to conduct elections using the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), a
process that turned out to be a resounding success. However, the success of the elections
is a testament to the fact that our democracy is thriving.

Many individuals, organizations and groups have played crucial and pivotal roles in
ensuring that Namibia has enjoyed 25 years of Peace, Stability and democracy. Therefore
I would like to begin today’s proceedings by giving thanks to these people. Firstly, I would
like to thank our President, His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, a man of peace and
unity who has given constant support to the Prime Minister, upholding democracy and
transferring state power. This is unique in Africa and this is an admirable situation where
Namibia has been a shining example of a peaceful, stable and democratic nation, thanks
to President Pohamba’s leadership.

I would also like to thank our Founding President, Dr. Sam Shafishuna Nujoma for having
laid the foundation of peace and unity by choosing the path of reconciliation and nation
building. His leadership set Namibia on course, to be known and revered across Africa
and the World, as a nation held together by the pillars of peace, stability and unity.

Moving on, I would like to thank the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN), which
despite hiccups in their system, managed to overcome them and organize a fruitful
election. As I mentioned before, the ECN ushered in the EVM's which allowed Namibia to make history as the first African country to use this technology successfully despite widespread pessimism and criticism.

However, the elections could not have been successful without the people of Namibia, the electorate. All participants, general voters, especially SWAPO Party members conducted themselves exemplary throughout the entire process, while the Party conducted a State of the Art Campaign. Thank you to all SWAPO Party members for your overwhelming support and your impressive attendance at all gatherings and rallies. It is your dedication and conduct that ensured that the Party obtained 80% and its Presidential Candidate obtained 87% in the Elections respectively. One might interpret that the 7% differential is due to people belonging to other political parties who voted for SWAPO's Presidential Candidate in the Presidential Elections. Nevertheless, the opposition parties should also be commended for staging a good fight.

When the election results were announced, the whole nation accepted them and there was no conflict or animosity between political parties or countrymen and women. Congratulations.

I would also like to thank and commend the media, both local and international, especially the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) for having done a sterling job in capturing the elections and ensuring that all Namibian stayed abreast of the latest developments concerning voting and results.

To our men and women of the uniformed forces. You have covered yourselves in glory. Your tireless commitment to keeping the peace, putting in the countless hours on duty and being ever present in all corners of our country is praiseworthy indeed. Well done.
We can also not forget the overwhelming outpouring of congratulatory messages that the President Elect, the SWAPO Party and the Namibian Government received from Heads of State and leaders from all over the world. I have thanked them all, through personal letters where I have stated as I have on many occasions, that Namibia is a "Child of International Solidarity", friend to all, enemy to none. And these messages I have received bears testament to that.

Finally, I would like to thank you for giving me a towering mandate for the next five years to manage Namibia’s state affairs. This mandate is based on hope and expectations. Indeed it is a humbling heavy weight placed on one’s shoulders and therefore it is important to assemble a team that can deliver.

Let us now move on. I would like to say that it is always good to plan. Alan Lakein once said, “Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now.”

Therefore it is never too early to plan for things that lie ahead of us. We are bringing the future into the present so that we are ready to face the challenges and expectations that await us. And for this reason, I invited you here today to announce two things. The first is linked to the concept of what I term New Africa. In the past former African Presidents would either be exiled, imprisoned or six feet under the ground. In the New Africa, former presidents live freely and in tranquility in their countries, enjoying respect and appreciation from their countrymen and women. They often end up playing important roles in their countries. Such is the case with Comrade Sam Nujoma who through an act of parliament was given the status of Founding Father and Father of the Nation. He is still as popular and loved by Namibians like he was during his tenure as President of Namibia.

I have therefore decided that once I assume executive state authority, I will establish by executive decision, a Presidential Council which will be composed of the sitting President and the two former Presidents who have garnered valuable experience over the years. Just like you witnessed and heard during the elections, in Namibian politics, the Legacy
Continues. You saw the poster with all three of us appearing with the words peace, stability and prosperity. Comrade Nujoma brought peace, Comrade Pohamba brought stability and yours truly is expected to bring prosperity. It is rare that you find a situation like that in Africa. Honestly, that situation is unique to Namibia.

These two icons and stalwarts of the struggle, Comrade Sam Nujoma and Comrade Hifikepunye Pohamba, have 15 and 10 years of governance experience respectively and will be engaged in advisory roles on the Council. The Presidential Council will formally be created after inauguration. The Council will co-opt former Prime Ministers, Deputy Prime Ministers and other key personalities that have formed the backbone of Namibian politics since Independence, if need be i.e. Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo. This process will be important for camaraderie, consultation and continuity of Government policy.

My second announcement is also of similar importance. As you are aware, the Constitution was amended which has led to the increase of the number of people the President can nominate to the National Assembly from 6 to 8. You are all aware of the SWAPO Party’s 77 members for the National Assembly. You all know their names. Therefore, I shall also make known the names of the 8 people I shall nominate. Furthermore, some of these people will have to prepare themselves and those who are working somewhere will have to be given ample time to give in their notices of resignation. This is part of the practice of effective governance and is also good for transparency. It will also put an end to constant speculation, which is the result of a vacuum of information, which the press ends up filling.

With no further delay, let me now proceed to naming my 8 additional members of the National Assembly. They are as follows:

1. Comrade Pendukeni Iivula – Ithana
2. Comrade Jerry Ekandjo
3. Comrade Albert Kawana
4. Comrade Katrina Hanse-Himarwa
These are all stalwarts of the SWAPO Party. In every democratic process there are winners and losers and therefore there are always casualties. However, people who possess knowledge and expertise, which have been accumulated over the years, are of great value to Government. That is why I am nominating them. Let me continue.

5. Comrade Bishop Dr. Zephania Kameeta
6. Comrade Dr. Bernard Shidute Haufiku
7. Comrade Obed Kandjoze
8. Comrade Heather Mwiza Sibungo

The last four individuals have been chosen on the basis of expertise and gender. Of course you will have to guess their portfolios, as those will only be made known once the full picture of the next Cabinet is complete.

I Thank You and now invite you to ask any questions.