



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

**HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME
DEVELOPMENT, MP**

**RELATED INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION: KEETMASHOOP
URBAN CONSTITUENCY**

21 APRIL 2018

Director of Ceremony- Mr. Josef and Ms. Aletha

**Honourable Hilma Nicanor-Deputy Minister of Veteran Affairs and
Councillor of Keetmanshoop Urban**

Honourable Lucia Basson-Governor of //Kharas Region

Her Worship Gaudentia Kröhne- Mayor of Keetmanshoop

Mr. A. Ucham-Acting CRO of //Kharas Regional Council

Reverend Karl Heiz Burger

Solange Straus-The poet

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Community Leaders,

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon to you all!!

It is my distinct honour and privilege to stand-in for my Minister Honourable Tjekero Tweya the Minister of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development. I am happy to be with you here today in Keetmasnhoop (Urban Constituency) and join you for, the belated 28th Independence celebration. This year's Independence Celebration was held in the copper town of Tsumeb, Otjikoto Region, under the theme 'United We Stand, For The Love of Namibia', whilst in 2017 the celebrations took place in Rundu in

the Kavango East Region. The rotation of regions in Independence celebrations, indicates how the government want every Namibian to understand the importance of our independence and be accorded an opportunity to randomly celebrate Independence day in their region. Likewise today, we are celebrating the belated Independence celebrations, an accassion we should all treasure .

On that day, the President of the Republic of Namibia His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, unpacked the true meaning of independence and I would like to quote a whole paragraph from his speech so you may understand it in his own words.

He said ‘When we, as freedom fighters, came to the realization that “we would have to be our own liberators”, what we had in mind was a better future for all Namibians, beyond the “flag and the national anthem”. We envisioned a nation that one day would be able to turn the blood, sweat and tears of struggle into a shared vision of prosperity for all.

What we sought was the complete emancipation of each and every Namibian. Our goal was to unite the people of our vast land, irrespective of race, religion, gender or ethnic origin – for a democratic, vibrant and peace-loving nation to prosper.

There were no textbooks to prepare us for accomplishing the task of development, and shared prosperity after independence. But our conscience and actions animated our conviction that we needed to build a new Namibia. A Namibia in which the chains of the injustices of the past would be broken and the protection of each citizen the reason why an elected Government became a reality. We wanted a Namibia in which government policies set-us on course towards nation building, social progression and economic advancement. We are building that Namibia’.

We also today share the same sentiments as the President, hence, Independence celebration is commemorated annually where we appreciate the attainment of freedom from colonial oppression, while at the same time, we remember our fallen heroes and heroines who sacrificed and laid their lives for us to enjoy the peace and stability we have in Namibia today. We continually echo in our national anthem – “their blood waters our freedom” glorifying our fallen heroes and heroines. The liberation struggle started long time ago when the the German Colonial troops face resistance from the pioneers of Independence such the late Chief Hendrik Witbooi, Chief Hosea Kutako, Omukwaniilwa Nehale Lya Mpingana, Omukwaniilwa lipumbu Ya Tshilongo, Chief Samuel Maharero and those who

came after them such as the Late Peter Nanyemba, John ya Otto Nankudhu, Andimba Toivo Ya Toivo up until to the generation of Founding Father His Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma and Former President Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba. There are just so many of Namibians who sacrificed or risked their lives for our independence. It is now up to us, to move this country forward – in terms of development, social progression, employment creation and reduce inequality.

**Director of Ceremony,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We at the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development, through the “Growth at Home Strategy”, believe in accelerating and sustaining industrial and economic growth and development. In simple terms, we ought to grow at home and that’s where we prioritise ,just as the african idiom that says (don’t clean outside whereas your dwelling is filthy) Our growth should indeed start here at home primarily through value additon.

We have attained Independence from colonial oppression, and we now have to achieve economic freedom - to create jobs for our unemployed graduates, to create a condusive environment for smooth business operations , to provide food for the hungry, take

care of our elderly, to enable our citizens in the Namibian House to have access to affordable medical services and free education.

Allow me to highlight some of the interventions government undertook to ensure that the plight of the people is addressed here in Keetmanshoop.

- The two factories for garment and furniture were constructed by NDC, the commercial arm of the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development to a total tune of N\$ 7 million each, during the 2016/17 financial year,**
- The extension of the Industrial Show Hall was made possible through the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME development at the total cost of N\$ 7 million. The hall is available to the community to be used for their activities.**
- The Aqua-culture project at Fonteintjie, a brain child of the Keetmanshoop Urban Constituency office constructed and managed by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources . This is also an indication that government is willing to listen to the requests of the community and assist them in making submissions so that their projects are included in the developmental plan budget. This project is estimated to cost government N\$18 million, but**

due to the economic situation that our government is finding itself in, not all projects will be implemented as planned until the situation stabilises or normalise.

- The upgrading of the Moth Hall, which costed N\$ 25 million was also carried out through the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development from 2015 to 2017.
- The construction of the 1st phase of the UNAM Southern Campus infrastructures which is expected to be completed this year. the new facilities are expected to increase the enrollment capacity of the campus with more than 1500 spaces. We are also reliably informed that UNAM is looking into transforming the Department of Geology into a School of Geoscience to start operating at the Southern Campus from 2019.

These are just but a few of the interventions government undertook to show its commitment in addressing the plight of all the people of Namibia, as the H.E. President always say, no one should feel left out.

Director of Ceremony,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

With these few remarks, allow me to once again thank you all for joining us on this joyous occasion and lets us hold hands

together as we forge towards economic independence that we are so desperately yearning for.

I now wish everyone here today especially the residents of Keetmanshoop Urban Constituency and the entire !Karas region community at large , a belated Happy independence celebrations.

Long live Namibia!!!!

I thank you!!