

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**2014 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE
NATION BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR.
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA, PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA.**

24 DECEMBER 2014

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

Good Evening Fellow Namibians,

I am pleased to address the nation on this Christmas Eve. This is a season for our people of Christian faith to celebrate the long-held holiday tradition, marking the birth of Jesus Christ. During this time, we show special gratitude to those we love as well as generosity to our neighbours and our community. It is this shared spirit of generosity that should connect all of us during this holiday season.

I take this opportunity to commend our people who go out of their way to provide assistance such as delivering food to the hungry, distributing gifts to children in need, or clothing for needy individuals. This spirit of service to the community should be nurtured so that we can build a better and caring society.

The teachings of Jesus Christ, which are also common to other faiths are widely known.

He has taught us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves; to feed the hungry and look after the sick; and to be our brother's and our sister's keeper. These values should motivate us, as Namibians, to be better parents and friends, better neighbors and better citizens, regardless of our faith.

Fellow Namibians,

Following two months of intensive campaigns, our people went to the polls on 28 November 2014. They voted for a President-elect and Members of the National Assembly who will be sworn in on 21st March 2015.

Despite some challenges, the Electoral Commission conducted a credible, modern, successful as well as free and fair election process that complied with regional and international standards. I take this opportunity to congratulate the nation on the successful holding of the fifth round of general elections in Namibia since independence 24 years ago.

This stands as yet another historic monument in the consolidation of democracy and nation building in our country.

We pay tribute to our heroes and heroines who sacrificed their lives and shed their precious blood for our country's freedom and independence. Their heroic sacrifices and deeds have made it possible for us to live in peace and security and to exercise our inalienable rights.

I commend all political parties that participated in the elections for their contribution to the strengthening of democracy in our country. I also congratulate newly elected Members of Parliament as well as Dr Hage Geingob, on his resounding victory as the next President of the Republic.

Fellow Namibians,

I call upon the nation to embrace National Reconciliation, nation building and hard work, as the necessary pre-conditions for socio-economic development and progress.

In this context, our civil servants and all stakeholders should spare no effort to ensure the delivery of quality health care, housing and sanitation, rural electrification as well as modern physical and communication infrastructure that can facilitate and boost trade and commerce.

Dear Compatriots,

Road accidents remain a source of serious concern in our country. I, therefore, urge all people to become Road Safety Ambassadors, and do our part to prevent road accidents. Drivers of all classes of vehicles must drive carefully at all times and passengers must behave responsibly.

Let us make it our collective mission and our goal, as a nation, to drastically reduce road accidents, not only during this festive season, but also in future. The responsible use of our roads at all times must become part and parcel of our culture.

Fellow Namibians,

Our thoughts and prayers are with all our compatriots who are fighting against illnesses and those who are in difficult conditions. We wish them all strength in dealing with the challenges they face.

I also wish to commend Namibian men and women who are unable to be with their families and friends because they are providing essential services during the Festive Season. The nation is proud of your services and dedication to duty. We wish you strength and good health in serving our country.

May the spirit of Christmas continue to guide us and teach us to become better citizens.

It is now my honour to wish all Namibians, wherever they are in the country and around the world, an enjoyable, peaceful, safe and blessed Christmas Holiday Season.

Long Live the Republic of Namibia.

I thank you.