



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA  
THE PRESIDENCY**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY  
HER EXCELLENCY NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
NAMIBIA PUBLIC-PRIVATE FORUM  
WINDHOEK | 23 OCTOBER 2025**

**Director of Ceremonies;**

**Dr. Elijah Ngurare, the Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic Namibia;**

**Hon. Natangwe Ithete, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industries, Mines & Energy;**

**Ambassador Dr. Kaire Mbuende, Director-General of the National Planning Commission;**

**Honourable Selma Ashipala-Musyavi, Minister of International Relations and Trade;**

**Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament present;**

**Dr. Nangula Uaandja, Chairperson of the Namibia Public-Private Forum;**

**Dr. Titus Nampala, Vice Chairperson of the Namibia Public-Private Forum;**

**Captains of Industries;**

**Heads of Public Enterprises and Senior Government officials present;**

**Members of the Media;**

**Representatives of Civil Society;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**To ensure close collaboration between the government and the private sector, back in 2024 Cabinet has decided on the establishment of the Namibia Public-Private Forum (NamPPF). The Forum's main objective is to facilitate dialogue between the public and the private sectors in the area of economic development.**

**This being the Inaugural Session of the Namibia Public-Private Forum, I thank the Namibian Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) for leading the implementation of the Cabinet Decision, that today we are here to be part of the First Session of the NamPPF. I also take this opportunity to thank and to welcome all of you for having found time to be part of this history when a new chapter in our journey of nation-building and prosperity is being opened.**

**Today, we are not merely launching another dialogue; we are institutionalizing a partnership of purpose, a bridge between government and business, united by the shared dream of building a prosperous Namibia. This gathering is a tangible demonstration of our collective resolve to strengthen collaboration, inclusivity and trust between the public and private sectors.**

**The persistent socio-economic challenges facing our country, the triple threat of unemployment, poverty and inequality, remain our greatest test since independence. Data reminds us that**

**Namibia is among the most unequal societies in the world. These challenges not only undermine human dignity but also threaten our social cohesion and national security.**

**Yet, our history reminds us that Namibia has never been defined by adversity, but by our ability to overcome it. From the liberation struggle to nationhood, we have always proven that unity and determination can turn impossibility into progress.**

**Namibia is abundantly endowed with natural wealth, from minerals and marine resources to arable land and a vibrant youthful population. However, our task today is to turn this wealth into wellbeing, to ensure that our natural endowments translate into true economic freedom for every Namibian. If harnessed with foresight and integrity, these blessings can be powerful drivers of inclusive growth and resilience.**

**Let me reiterate what I have often said: as a nation with this volume of resources, we are too few to be poor. Our God-given wealth must become a mechanism for shared prosperity, not for a few, but for all, but this requires a paradigm shift. We can no longer afford to do things the same way and expect new results. Namibia's future demands courage, innovation and action.**

**When I assumed office on 21 March this year, I made a firm commitment to lead a government that rejects business as usual. We are ushering into a new era of decisive, efficient and results-**

**driven governance, an era that honours the sacrifices of those who fought for the Namibia we enjoy today. This calls for all of us, public and private alike, to embrace collaboration and act with urgency.**

**You may recall that we recently launched the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), anchored in the theme “Fostering Economic Growth, Inclusiveness and Resilience for Sustainable Development.” NDP6 maps the pathway to achieving Vision 2030, transforming Namibia into a truly industrialized and prosperous nation.**

**Our goal is bold yet achievable, to create 500,000 jobs over the next five years. While job creation may not rest solely with government, it is our responsibility to create the environment in which businesses can grow and hire. This includes, removing barriers, cutting red tape and ensuring that enterprise thrives.**

**Government has identified seven key priority areas, namely; Agriculture, Sports, Youth Empowerment, Quality Education and Training, Creative Industries, Quality Health and Social Welfare, and Land, Housing and Sanitation. To power these priorities, we have also identified enabling sectors, these are; Mining, Energy, Water, Agriculture, Tourism, Fisheries, Oil and Gas, Infrastructure Development and Transport and Logistics.**

**These are not merely words on paper. They are building blocks for a Namibia that stands on its own feet, resilient, industrial and confident in its destiny.**

**NDP6 further calls for a deliberate economic transformation strategy, one that expands our export base, increases productivity and builds a competent public service.**

**Government cannot achieve this alone. The story of Namibia has always been one of partnership, from the trenches of liberation to the tables of reconstruction. Our progress now depends on a shared effort between government, business, civil society and development partners.**

**My message to you is clear: Government needs you. I need you. Namibia needs you. Let us work together to confront the challenges that stand between us and prosperity. Over the next two days, I urge you to bring forward your best ideas and boldest proposals to drive sustainable economic growth for our people.**

**Yes, there may be difficulties faced by the business community, which could include regulatory bottlenecks, high operational costs, limited access to markets and infrastructure gaps. However, for them to be successfully addressed we need to work together as a nation within our specific constituencies. We will need to address them as they are not abstract, but real barriers that affect livelihoods and limit innovation.**

**Government's role is to create an enabling environment with responsive policies, modern infrastructure and predictable institutions that allow the private sector to thrive. But the private sector must also rise to the occasion by investing in local value chains, empowering MSMEs and placing community upliftment at the heart of corporate purpose.**

**We can all agree that a predictable and fair regulatory framework is essential to competitiveness. That is why we are reforming outdated laws such as the Land Bill, the Petroleum Act and the Namibia Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill (NIPFB). The NIPFB in particular will provide stability and confidence to both domestic and international investors.**

**In the same spirit, government has introduced tax reforms that make Namibia more competitive relative to our neighbours, signaling our readiness to attract and retain investment.**

**In closing, I want to assure you that the Office the President and the government I lead stand ready to collaborate with all, role players in the economy this may include, cooperate bodies to community-based organisations. Our shared duty is to keep Namibia's flame of hope burning.**

**Over the next two days, let us engage with unity of purpose, with One Heart and One Mind. Be bold, be honest and be solutions-driven. I call upon all institutions represented here to document**

**your ideas carefully and ensure that the outcomes of this dialogue are translated into concrete and timely action.**

**Together, let us write the next chapter of Namibia's success, one defined not by what divides us, but by what unites us.**

**With those remarks, I now declare the Namibia Public-Private Forum Officially Open.**

**I thank you.**