

## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA THE PRESIDENCY

## CLOSING REMARKS BY HER EXCELLENCY NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE NAMIBIA PUBLIC—PRIVATE FORUM

24 OCTOBER 2025 WINDHOEK

These two days have marked a strong beginning to the Namibia Public Private Forum. However, this Forum will only have a real and lasting impact if each one of us, individually and collectively, does our part. We must act with discipline, urgency, and diligence on what has been discussed here.

What stood out most over these two days was the unity of a nation striving for a common goal. As our Founding President tough us, we will definitely emerge victorious.

I wish to thank all presenters, stakeholders, and participants for the honesty, openness, and respect that guided our discussions. The tone of engagement showed that we can speak frankly, differ respectfully, and still move forward together. That spirit of partnership is what will carry Namibia from dialogue to delivery.

We reminded ourselves that progress begins with trust. When government and business meet each other halfway in a sprit of true partnership, we create the right environment for growth. During this Forum from the statements delivered, the panels and the 10 working groups a lot of issues come to the fore. However all of them were focusing on how to grow our economy, create jobs and take our people out of poverty.

I must tell you that this engagement was served by an able secretariat and a clear and comprehensive report will be produced for immediate implementation.

Among the issues raised include over regulations, we need to align regulations to enhance efficiency and productivity. The current processing of visas, work and import permits is considered not friendly to investment.

It has come out clear that we must make it easier to do business in Namibia by reviewing and amending policies that hold us back, simplifying processes, cutting unnecessary delays, and aligning our institutions. Equally it comes to light that quality services delivery, honesty and integrity are key to success. We need a Predictable and fair systems as that build confidence, and confidence attracts investment, creates jobs, and drives inclusive growth.

Namibia needs to be competitive if we are to unlock our economy, hence the issue of incentives has been highlighted, as well as the importance of collaboration and to adopt a culture of urgency. Skill and capacity building as well as financing are also important elements to enable us to reach to national prosperity. Namibia is part of the global village and therefore, connectivity and digitalization can not be overemphasized.

The We have to align our education system with the needs of the labour market and equip our young people

with practical and digital skills. In this way, we will build a confident generation ready to compete and lead.

The high-level panels captured the essence of this Forum. The government cannot do everything alone. Real transformation happens when we create more space for private-sector participation while the government focuses on enabling, regulating, and ensuring fairness. This is how we move from potential to progress and from planning to prosperity.

We also reflected on the immense potential of our mining industry. Namibia is richly endowed with strategic minerals that the world needs. If well managed and sustained, mining can be a true game changer that lifts our economy to new heights and improves livelihoods across the country. But to fully benefit, we must develop the specialised skills that this sector requires. Namibians must be equipped to take up the high-value jobs of the future rather than depending on outside expertise.

The United Nations session added an important global dimension. Through the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection, Namibia is walking hand in hand with international partners who share our vision of inclusive prosperity. Their four focus areas, youth employment, entrepreneurship, expansion of social protection, and the transition from informal to formal economies, align seamlessly with our national priorities, the AU Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals and the

Pact for the Future adopted at the UN last year under the Co-facilitation of Namibia and Germany.

Together, we must ensure that this Public-Private Partnership, which we have recommitted ourselves to over the past 2 days, delivers tangible results for our people.

Our sectoral working groups also brought forward practical and powerful ideas. The agriculture, water, and fisheries cluster reminded us that food security is both a matter of dignity and development. We must modernise irrigation, expand agro-processing, and promote Namibian products to strengthen local industries.

The creative industry, sport, and tourism group reminded us that culture is also an economy. Our music, film, crafts, and tourism hold immense potential to create jobs, build national pride, and share the Namibian story with the world. The public and private sectors must collaborate closely to nurture and invest in this creative power.

The sessions on health, housing, land, and sanitation reminded us that inclusive development begins with dignity. Access to quality healthcare, affordable housing, serviced land, and proper sanitation are not privileges; they are rights. We must act with urgency and unity to make these rights a lived reality for every Namibian.

Where do we go from here.

To reduce the time of registering businesses in Namibia the one stop shop will be up and running by the 1st December 2025. The center will be accommodated at the old ESM bank building.

All relevant ministries in particular, Home Affairs and Immigration, Finance, Agriculture, Fisheries, water and Land Reform, are directed to look into the issues raised and report on action taken within two weeks and you will accordingly be informed.

I welcome the proposal to set up task force. I have therefore decided to set up the following task forces:

- **1** Task Force on Economic Recovery
- 2 Task Force on Health
- 3 Task Force on Housing

I therefore, mandate the secretariat of this Forum to work out the modalities and report to me by the end this week. Thus enabling me to constitute those Tasks for to start work immediately and to report to by the January 2026. Xxxxxxxx.

As we conclude this Forum, once again I am encouraged by the unity of purpose that filled every session. Everyone spoke with one goal in mind: to make Namibia a conducive environment for all

Great societies are built by men and women who plant trees under whose shade they may never sit. That is the kind of vision and selflessness that must guide us. I thank every participant for the respect, honesty, and energy that defined these discussions. Let us continue with one heart and one mind, because Namibia's true success will never be measured by what divides us but by what unites us.

As we may not meet before the end of the year, it may not be too early to wish you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous 2026.

I thank you.