



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**OFFICIAL CLOSING REMARKS BY
HON. DR. PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP
MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL CLOSING OF THE 21ST
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL
LEADERS**

**14 SEPTEMBER 2018, SAFARI COURT HOTEL
WINDHOEK**

**Director of Ceremonies,
Hon. Ministers and Deputy Ministers present,
Hon. Members of Parliament,
Hon. Laura Mcleod-Katjirua, Governor of
Khomas Region,
Gaob Immanuel /Gâseb, Deputy Chairperson of
the Council of Traditional Leaders
His Worship Councilor Muesee Kazapua, the
Mayor of Windhoek Municipality
Esteemed Traditional Leaders
All other invited guests,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentleman;**

Greetings to you all dear esteem traditional leaders,

I am humbled to once again join you on this very significant occasion that simplifies our total commitments to nation building. It has been indeed productive week of hard work and dedication to ensure that the voice of the voiceless is represented. They say all good things come to end but in our case we are as good as always.

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude's and appreciation to you our traditional leaders on the manner you have conducted yourselves during your deliberations as from day one. This meeting remains

one of the platforms born from the Namibian Constitution to provide a fair chance to you, our traditional leaders, to extensively engage with the State and Government to investigate societal issues on your own discretions by passing considerate recommendations to Government without favours.

This has been a remarkable session in the history of the Council of Traditional Leaders on which critical issues on the agenda such as the cooperation between Traditional Authorities, Regional Councils and Local Authorities were carefully discussed and considerate recommendations were made. We are doing this in order to continue enhancing good governance in our country and to ensure that developmental programs are not interrupted. You also discussed a pertinent issue of succession for heads of traditional authorities that has over the past years divided our traditional communities. I hope and trust that recommendations made on this matter will assist Government to address issues of secessions amicably. As your line Minister I will work closely with the Minister of Justice to ensure that a legislative framework is put in place to improve on the current framework, in the interest of harmonious relationships within our communities.

At the same time, I would like to urge traditional leaders with disputes to work towards concluding the disputes and march forward to unity and progress. If you remain divided and prolong your differences, it has a long-term impact on the unity of your communities.

The Ministry's staff and I will continue to provide support to your traditional authorities in fulfilling your customary and statutory obligations. Needless to remind you that our President, His Excellency Dr Hage G. Geingob, has assured you of government's commitment towards supporting your activities.

Director of Ceremonies;

His Excellency the President commended you, esteemed traditional leaders, for your resilience in enduring many challenges yet remaining committed to being an integral role player of national unity and custodians of our culture. I urge you all to continue exercising your traditional leadership roles in your communities by jointly fighting the social evil affecting society such as the Gender Based Violence, tribalism, regionalism and corruptions.

As you were informed earlier, the tenure of office for you being a member of this House is coming to an end this year and my office will request all

Traditional Authorities to submit names to be Gazetted as new members of the Council of traditional leaders for a period of another five years as prescribed in the Act.

Once again, I therefore urge you, esteemed Traditional Leaders, to practice transparency and fairness when appointing new members of the Council of Traditional Leaders, people who have public interest and not those that are after personal interests; people who understand the rule of law and not those who will circumvent statutory rules and procedures, and people who will advise you without fear, favour or prejudice.

With that few remarks, it is now my honour to declare this meeting officially closed and wish you a safe journey back home.

I thank you all.