
10 SEPTEMBER 2018 SAFARI COURT HOTEL WINDHOEK
Director of Ceremonies,

His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia

Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of Urban and Rural Development

Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders, Omukwaniiilwa Immanuel Kauluma Elifas in absentia,

Esteem Distinguished Traditional Leaders,

Hon. Ministers and Deputy Ministers

Hon. Members of Parliament,

Hon. Laura Mcleod-Katjirua, Governor of Khomas Region and other Governors,

His Worship Councilor Muesee Kazapua, the Mayor of Windhoek Municipality and other Mayors and Chairpersons of local authorities in attendance,

Hon. Regional and Local Authority Councilors,

All other invited guests,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,
I stand here today to deliver a Statement on behalf of the Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders who tendered an official apology due to other commitment, and I also stand here on behalf of the Members of the Council of Traditional Leaders to deliver this statement.

Today marks the 21st Anniversary of the Council of Traditional Leaders since its inception in the year 1997.

As Traditional Leaders we are pleased that our Government has been a driving force to safeguard that our efforts to make meaningful contribution to the Namibian house is provided for.

We particularly thank His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia for his open door policy, which he has demonstrated to allow every Namibian including Traditional Leaders to consult him on issues of national concern.

I should however confess that we are pleased with the frankness the President has proven to advice the traditional leaders on economic and social issues, such frankness advice helped the traditional leaders to be vigilant in their dealings by enhancing compliance to our applicable Laws.
It is a pity though; that despite such prudent advice from our Head of State we still find ourselves compromising on what the Laws requires us to do.

Last year we made a commitment to the President during the meeting held in Rundu, whereby promises were made, that we are no longer going to give the Head of State headache on issues of Chieftainship succession and on issues relating traditional community disputes. Now today we are here wondering what to explain to the President.

One thing for sure that we can report on to His Excellency the President is that, maybe it is because of globalization that traditional leaders and Traditional Authorities are being used as a tool to advance personal agenda for some members of our society, and being traditional leaders from Africa we regard ourselves as the most ethical leaders that believes in moral values in the application of the Customary Laws.

Director of ceremonies;

One might say that my statement is of scapegoat nature, but as traditional leaders we became the shadows of those with ambitions to capitalize their interest in the name of the Traditional Authority. We have many Court
cases on which our traditional leaders are being summoned to appear before the Judge in the Magistrate Court, but most of this Court cases are initiated by those with good academic credentials to divide our traditional leaders and the community for their own interests.

I therefore call upon our sons and daughters to respect the existing Customary Law and your academic skills is needed to enhance good governance within the institutions of traditional authorities but not to divide us, we therefore beg you dearly to stop such motives. At the same time I call upon our traditional leaders to come back to the culture of resolving our differences as per our acceptable diverse Customary Laws.

Director of ceremonies

During the Town Hall meetings conducted by our President, he advocated for Traditional Authorities to be self-reliance in the economic sphere by mobilizing resources to meet the Government halfway. Today I am happy to report to you that, as traditional leaders we have established a trust fund for all traditional authorities on which we have join ventures with business people to assist us. At the same time we have consulted Government through the Office of the President to
support our trust fund since these funds is earmarked to develop our communities.

In closing and as we are only a few weeks away from the land conference, allow me to remind ourselves, that certainly we should embrace the call for unity and teamwork.

It is not possible for a person to live without taking the help of other person. Hence, let us work together in harmony and also give support as well as encouragement to each other. Let us not continue to remain rigid and uncooperative, then the foundation of our society would crumble down and our nation will never be able to project itself as a strong nation to balance with other countries.

We cannot and must not forget the liberation struggle was achievable only through unity. And that is why a policy of National Reconciliation was adopted. Let us unite in the diversity concept of our country and everyone a strong message that nothing is without unity. Living together with love and harmony provides the real spirit of life. Unity in diversity in Namibia shows us that we are all born, cared and nourished by one Supreme God.
Director of Ceremonies:

Lastly and on a very sad note, the Council of Traditional Leaders pleads with sympathy to the family members of those who lost their loved ones as results of barbaric killings of innocent women and children. We specifically convey our message of condolences to the bereaved family of the late Avihe Cheryl Ujaha whose life was innocently taken away from us.

They call it Gender Base Violence but in reality it is an act of criminality, whether it is gender base or what so ever, and the fact that you have committed a crime it is just a crime. Our society has become immoral and evil, is it because we do not know who are our neighbors are, is it because of the unknown spiritual faith within our society or it is because there is no Law and order.

Why should we suffer like this, I therefore call upon our traditional leaders to take part in fighting this evil of Gender Based Violence by identifying criminals in our society, in our houses and report them to the authority.

Most importantly we should screen anybody who comes to the Traditional Authority seeking for a place to stay or who wants to venture into a business. Yes our constitution allows for a free movement of every
Namibian to settle wherever he or she feels to settle and the same Constitution allows every Namibian to belong and establish any spiritual faith in the country, however we for see an abuse of this Constitutional rights were criminals are taking advantage to kill innocent women and children.

Our Law Enforcement Agencies specifically the Namibian Police is no longer collaborating with the institutions of Traditional Authorities, what happened to the programme of community policing or Police reserving? We have noticed that this programme is only applicable in certain suburbs of our cities and there is nothing in the rural areas. We really need to work together to fight Gender Base Violence otherwise we will forsake a lot of lives.

To our Traditional Leaders we are also the one to be blame as we most of the time concentrate on infighting, rather than enhancing the moral values of our cultures. I thank those who on annual basis convene cultural festivals with the ideas to restore our moral cultural ethics that does not allow us to involve in immoral act. I therefore urge traditional leaders to preach about moral values to our communities to fight against unbecoming behavior to Gender Base Violence.
With that few remarks I would like to thank everybody for coming and celebrate with us the 21st Anniversary of our existence.

I thank you.