



REMARKS BY GOAB IMMANUEL /GÅSEB, VICE
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL, ON
THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE
22ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF
TRADITIONAL LEADERS

19 AUGUST 2019,

**GOBA LODGE
GOBABIS**

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

**Honourable Dr. Peya Mushelenga, Minister of
Urban and Rural Development
Esteemed Traditional Leaders
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers
Honourable. Members of Parliament,
Honourable. Festus Ueitele, Governor of
Omaheke Region and other Governors present
here,
His Worship Councilor Liberius Kalili, of
Gobabis Town
Honourable. Regional and Local Authority
Councilors,
All other invited guests,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is my singular honor and privileged to address this gathering on behalf of the Council of Traditional Leaders the body which brought all of us here today to engage on issues of national interests.

As the Vice Chairperson of the Council of Traditional I will fail in my duties if I will not thank our Government for providing this platform to our traditional leaders to engage with various institutions in our country for the betterment of our traditional communities.

While thanking our Government I will specifically single out to thank our Head of State, Dr. Hage G.

Geingob not only for accepting to officiate this meeting, but for his uninterrupted dedication and for his tireless commitment to serve the Namibian house in the spirit of Harambee like he always say that no one should feel left out.

His Excellency the President has demonstrated an exemplary leadership style by ensuring that Namibians enjoys the freedom they deserve by engaging with him in all matters of concern at various platforms.

Despite the efforts by our President to engage all Namibians through this platforms, some Namibians took it up open themselves and abuse the available platforms with their hidden agenda of destabilizing the peace we are enjoying today.

I understand that some young and old members of our society are no longer using the social media for educational purposes or for information sharing, but social media is now being use as a tool for infightings instead of building our nation. I therefore appeal to our society to move away from such practice.

Director of ceremonies

The Council of Traditional Leaders is pleased with the resolutions of the just ended National Land

Conference, and we are therefore thankful to His Excellency the President for making such a provision especially when he appointed the Ancestral Land Commission to look into the matters of ancestral land claims.

Myself being one among the Commissioner appointed to serve on the ancestral land claim committee, I dully concur with His Excellency the President for such a Commission to be established, as matters raised during the land conference are being attended to accordingly through Regional Consultations by the Commission.

Through the regional consultation I have observed and noticed that some of the ancestral land claims are matters that can be dealt with by the specific Traditional Authorities in that area, and I hope and trust that as traditional leaders we are going to look into this matters and advice the Government and our President accordingly

Our Government has created conducive environment for Traditional Leaders to perform their duties in accordance with the provision of the laws of our countries.

However the endless disputes among our traditional communities and endless applications by the traditional communities who are continuing seeking for recognition of new traditional authority

from the already existing 52 recognised Traditional Authorities are destabilizing the conducive environment our Government has created for us.

I was informed that there are more than ten applications received by the Minister of Urban and Rural Development from traditional communities seeking for recognition and these communities are the same communities which are already represented under the recognised traditional authorities.

With humility and respect we therefore as a Council request our Minister to scrutinize such applications as most of the applicants already falls under the existing recognised traditional Authorities. It is due to these applications that our traditional communities are on daily basis embroiled in disputes and they drag each other to courts, which is not the customary practice of the traditional communities. And our caring Government is always the victim in this regard.

Therefore I call upon our communities to respect our customary norms and practice to move away from unwanted disputes.

Lastly the Council of Traditional Leaders, is against the gender based violence which is now on an increase in the country, were women and girls are brutally killed by men. And also it is disturbing

to learn that some women who are entrusted with motherly love are the ones involved in the dumping of babies, which is very barbaric move by the mothers.

We have also realized that due to the usage of drugs and alcohol among the members of our community more incidence of gender based violence is occurring in our society. We therefore call upon our communities to work hand in hand with the traditional authorities to condemn this crime by reporting it to the authority.

Last but not least I call upon the Namibian communities to once again reject violence as we are approaching the National Elections scheduled for November this year. Therefore we expect the election to be peaceful as always.

With that few words I thank all of you for coming.

I thank you