

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL
CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN
"NAMIBIA, HEALTHY AND CLEAN"**

MAY 25, 2018

**SAMORA MACHEL CONSTITUENCY
WINDHOEK**

Check against delivery

Director of Ceremonies;

Honourable Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Governor of the Khomas Region;

Your Worship Cllr Muesebe Kazapua, Mayor of the City of Windhoek;

Hon Cllr Fanuel Shivute, Councillor of Samora Machel Constituency;

Distinguished guests;

Members of the media;

Ladies and gentlemen

Fellow Namibians

I am pleased to welcome you to this landmark event, where we are officially launching the National Clean-Up Campaign, under the theme, "Namibia, Healthy and Clean."

When I inaugurated the City of Windhoek New City Hall on October 5, 2017, I announced my intention to set aside a day on which we will engage in a nationwide clean – up campaign. I promised that I would announce the day and everyone, from the army to the police, and all citizens across our country will

participate in cleaning up of our towns and cities. Today, together, we are delivering on that promise.

It is pleasing to note that this initiative involves a myriad of stakeholders, coming together in the spirit of Harambee, with a clear and common objective of: A clean and healthy Namibian House.

Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to you Namibians, for having utilized all resources at your disposal, in order to guarantee a successful clean-up campaign. I thank all Governors, mayors, councilors, offices, ministries, agencies, the NBC, the Namibia Defence Force, as well as our private sector. Your concerted efforts in supporting this initiative will go a long way in making Namibia a better country. I find it necessary to share with you what a day like this mean in the context of our Namibian House narrative.

What is the purpose of a Clean-Up Campaign? To answer this question, let me provide a definition of cleanliness. The Oxford Dictionary describes cleanliness as “the state or quality of being clean or being kept clean.” Wikipedia expands on this definition by describing cleanliness as “the abstract state of being clean and free from dirt, and the habit of achieving and maintaining that state. Cleanliness is often achieved through cleaning.”

Across the country, Namibians are joining this effort, in the interest of keeping our Namibian House clean, free of dirt, and fostering the habit of achieving and maintaining that state. As the 19th Century politician, Benjamin Disraeli once said,

“Cleanliness and order are not matters of instinct; they are matters of education, and like most great things, you must cultivate a taste for them.”

Without doubt, the National Clean-Up campaign is the beginning of a new chapter for our cities, towns and villages. We are cultivating the ethos of keeping our capital city, towns, villages and homes clean.

Let us seize this opportunity to make a positive impact and take significant steps forward in keeping Namibia healthy and clean.

Today, let us show our pride and common sense of purpose by cleaning, not just for the sake of cleaning, but to ensure that we initiate a trend and movement that will ensure that all Namibians, present and future, will enjoy living in a healthy, welcoming and tranquil environment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is incumbent on each and every Namibian to subscribe to the mantra of “My waste, my responsibility.” Cleaning is a good practice but if we cultivate a culture in which we don’t litter, vandalize our infrastructure and dump waste, then we will make significant progress towards becoming the cleanest country on our continent and even the world. Why not?

Let us dream big by taking responsibility for our waste.

We commemorate Africa Day on 25 May, the day we have chosen to clean up our country. As we remember and pay tribute to one of the Founding Fathers of Africa’s Independence movement, President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, who coined the phrase Uhuru Nakazi, meaning freedom and work. Today is Africa’s Freedom day. So we are calling it also Africa’s Freedom day and hard work. We do so knowing that this is what Mwalimu would have liked us to do. By working towards cleaning up our environment, we are living up to Mwalimu’s ideal, utilizing our hard won freedom in order to preserve our well-being and the pristine image of our House. Africa Day in the absence of a clean Africa is without doubt an unhealthy Africa.

An unhealthy Africa is unproductive and will not live up to commitments of the Africa We Want as espoused in Agenda 2063.

Fellow Namibians, it is our patriotic duty and civic responsibility to keep our environment clean. It is the duty of each and every Namibian to ensure that his/her surroundings are hygienic.

It is our social responsibility to ensure that our environment is preserved and that living conditions are sustained for years and decades to come. We have the responsibility to pass on a well-preserved and clean country to future generations. When we talk of giving back to the society, it begins by delivering a clean environment. When we clean up Namibia, we will not only be increasing the country's aesthetic appeal and minimizing the risk of disease, but we will also demonstrate to the outside world, the immense love and pride we hold for our beloved motherland.

We will pull together, roll up our sleeves, and make Namibia healthy and clean, one street, one city, one town and one village at a time. Let us establish a narrative around good health and cleanliness, in every corner of our Namibian House.

Let us therefore kick off this campaign in earnest, and make Namibia, Healthy and Clean.

I thank you.