

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

CLOSING REMARKS

BY

RIGHT HONOURABLE DR. SAARA KUUGONGELWA-

AMADHILA

PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 5TH CONTINENTAL AFRICAN CONFERENCE IN
SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA,**

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

06 JUNE, 2017

- Director of Ceremonies;
- Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly
- Hon. Margreth Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National Council;
- Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relational Relations and Cooperation;
- Hon. Ministers and Deputy Ministers;
- Hon. Laura Mcloud-Katjirua, Governor of the Khomas Region;
- President of ICAP, Mr. Fernando Gonzales;
- Distinguished Delegates from different Countries
- Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Namibia;
- Members of the Media;
- Distinguished delegates;
- Ladies and Gentlemen

We have come to the end of the 5th Continental African Conference in Solidarity with Cuba, held here in Windhoek, under the theme: *“Intensify Solidarity and Continuing the Legacy of Fidel and Ché”*. This has been a productive gathering, which brought together national and international experts to further strengthen the friendship and solidarity among our respective nations in the present international environment. This conference reaffirmed our strong and excellent solidarity relations that unite Cuba and Africa.

You have all made valuable contributions to the analysis and ratification of the importance of the solidarity and friendship actions in terms of the most relevant and current issues of common interest. I have no doubt that your contributions have added value to the enhancement of the Cuban-Africa positions in the international community.

The two working Commissions have also generated useful proposals on how we can strengthen the work of our Solidarity organizations and their work and how we can best promote the Legacy of Comrade Fidel Castro-Ruz whose life was dedicated to the wellbeing not only of his Native Cuba, but of all the oppressed People around the world.

Director of Ceremonies, Your Excellencies

As countries of the South, sustained economic growth and sustainable development remains a priority. Needless to state, therefore, is that poverty alleviation can only be successful in a stable and peaceful environment. Our socio-economic development will be achieved only if we maintain peace, justice, and political stability on the African Continent, and the world at large. Our international relations and cooperation must, therefore, embrace the spirit of Africa-Asia-Latino solidarity, through regional and continental integration, as well as mutual respect and peaceful coexistence among all nations of the world. In this connection, I wish to urge Friendship Associations with Cuba to continue promoting projects that accelerate the realization of the Africa-Cuba cooperation.

United by our common values, we should work in unison at International Platforms to promote fairer International trade, better international relations and cooperation, including a more representative UN Security Council, and a more inclusive international financial and economic systems that is supportive of a more equitable sharing of benefits from increased International Trade and economic growth amongst all Nations of the World, so as to end the continued economic marginalization of Africa. We should further continue to Champion the cause of Justice for all across the world, including the lifting of the unjust and debilitating economic and Trade sanctions against Cuba, as well as the end of occupation of the Guantanamo bay.

The plight of the Cuban people shall forever remain a matter of interest to us. Since our attainment of national independence, our Government has consistently called for the lifting of the US economic Embargoes against Cuba. At the African Union, Namibia has continued to sponsor resolutions to this effect.

Namibia is indeed honoured to have hosted this Conference, and on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, I wish to extend our profound gratitude and appreciation to the African Friendship Associations with Cuba for granting us this honour and to all delegates for taking out time out of their busy schedules to travel to Namibia to participate in this Conference.

Director of Ceremonies, Your Excellencies;

Let me conclude my remarks by stating that the 5th Continental African Conference in Solidarity with Cuba should not be an end in itself, but should form part of our effort towards strengthening the bonds of friendship between the people of Cuba and progressive peoples of the world, to recognize the important work done in support of Cuba based on its solidarity actions, to deliberate on priorities in the actions of solidarity and to fortify the bonds between partner organizations of the continent.

With those few remarks, I now have the singular honour to declare the 5th Continental African Conference in Solidarity with Cuba officially closed.

I thank you.
