



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

REMARKS

BY

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PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 15TH ORDINARY
SESSION OF CISSA CONFERENCE**

FRIDAY, 27 July 2018

SAFARI

17H00

Director of the Proceedings

Chairperson of CISSA and Members of the CISSA Troika

Chairperson of the African Union Commission

**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and
Cooperation**

Honourable Ministers

Heads of Intelligence and Security Services here present

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Esteemed invited guests

Experts from the security sector

Members of the Media

Ladies and gentlemen

I feel honoured to deliver the closing remarks at the 15th Ordinary Session of the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) Conference, themed **“Enhancing Human Security through Equitable Resources Management for Sustainable Peace and Stability in Africa”**.

The theme of this conference demonstrates the importance the Intelligence and Security Services sector attaches to the issue of sustainable peace and Security. The theme further acknowledges that the security of the State is not only achieved by ensuring security of the Government or regime and territorial integrity, and sovereignty, but also by ensuring Human Security.

Such an acknowledgement is in line with a widely held view among scholars of Conflict Management that, “Peace is not the absence of violence”. This partly means that even when there is no violent conflict, but the population is experiencing, on a daily basis; high rates of crime, poverty, unemployment, inequality, diseases, scarcity of clean water, landlessness and decent shelter, then there cannot be real and sustainable peace.

The presence of the afore-mentioned also make the State to be vulnerable to other threats such as foreign influenced activities, which can manifest itself in agenda that threatens territorial integrity of a sovereign state.

Here, I would like to make specific reference to what is sometimes referred to as the “ticking time bomb” – the youth bulge.

According to the United Nations Population Facts, the youth population in Africa is growing rapidly. In 2015 the youth aged 15 – 24 constituted 226 million of the African population. It is projected that the number of youth will increase by 42% in 2030 and more than double by 2055. In addition, many of the African countries are among those that are struggling to educate their young people and also with high youth unemployment.

Furthermore, the World Bank indicates that the youth account for 60% of all those unemployed in Africa. This statistic is worrisome, because as the saying goes “An idle mind is the devil’s workshop”, and as we know, the devil does not like peace.

Findings by a 2011 World Bank survey indicate that about 40% of those who join rebel movements were motivated by lack of jobs. Furthermore, the majority of African migrants, who embark on a dangerous journey to Europe, risking untold suffering at the hands of human traffickers and smugglers, and death on the Mediterranean sea, due to, among others, unemployment and hopelessness, are the youth. This, therefore, means that as efforts are made to dismantle networks of human traffickers and smugglers, parallel efforts should also be intensified to address factors, which include socio-economic challenges, that pushes people to decide to migrate.

Distinguished delegates and invited guests,

Your choice and discussion of the theme is, therefore, re-assuring that you are fully aware of the role you need to play to enhance Human Security, as a critical component in ensuring sustainable peace and stability.

I must emphasise that your role should not only be limited to identifying threats emanating from the socio-economic challenges, but should also focus on identifying opportunities and ways to address the challenges.

I am pleased to learn that the Conference was a resounding success, as you have not only discussed in detail matters related to the theme, but you have also analysed the security situation in Africa and came up with decisions and

recommendations to help address the myriad of security challenges facing the continent.

Director of the proceedings

Africa is proud and fortunate to have a body under which the Heads of Intelligence and Security Services meet to strategize and advise on how the continent could prevent conflicts from escalating into violent conflicts.

I am informed that CISSA plays a critical role in support the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and contributes towards achieving aspirations espoused in Africa's Agenda 2063. The presence of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission at this gathering is an indication of the appreciation of such a role. On that note, I congratulate CISSA for being a servant of Africa and for its concerted efforts in tackling common security threats affecting our Motherland, through timely sharing Intelligence and proffering advices.

I now have a singular honour to declare the 15th Ordinary Session of CISSA Conference officially closed and wish you all a safe journey back to your respective countries.

I thank you.
