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NAMIBIAN AIR FORCE

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

BY

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AT THE OCCASION OF THE NAMIBIAN AIR FORCE CHANGE OF COMMAND PARADE ON THE 05 JUNE 2020 HELD AT AFHQ KARIBIB AIR FORCE BASE

1. It is indeed humbling to see such a big turn out here at Karibib Air Force Base in marking this historic event. I appreciate your efforts for taking time from your equally busy programmes, bracing the cold weather and COVID-19 to be part of this event. It is therefore my singular honor and privilege to stand before you just after having received the symbols of power to make a few remarks.
2. I would like to start off with a quote from The book Levithan, Chapter 1, where Thomas Hobbs wrote that, open quote “Without security there is no place for industry, no art, no letters, no society; and worst of all, continuous fear, and danger of violent death; and the life of a man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short”. Close quote.
3. Born in Okambebe village, a village close to the international borders of with Angola where so many battles took place means that I ve been exposed to the military since the very beginning. And it was therefore just

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natural for me to leave the Ministry of Finance in 1999 where I was a taxation officer to take up soldiering with the Ministry of Defence.

4. And I was priveleged to study, through keen observation, our great military leaders of the Namibian Army, Namibian Air Force and Namibian Navy where I've concluded whether right or wrong that, leadership is relatively subjective. In that there is a requirement for expertise, good judgement, innovation, instinctiveness and purposeful interactions. Thereby rendering the argument whether leaders are born or created absolutely unnecessary. There are no clear answers. Leaders are found on both sides of the coin.

5. This brings me to the elephant in the room...my so-called youthful age to lead. The good thing is that, it fits in neatly with leaders, managers, parlimantarians of other sectors put in place by the C-I-C and President of the Republic of Namibia.

6. Having said that, I would like to first and foremost, thank the C-I-C, the Hon Minister of Defence, the Chief of Defence for the trust and confidence placed in me to lead the Air Force. I am indeed honored to be taking over this prestigious organization which is firmly grounded on the values of Intergrity, Patriotism, Professionalism, Loyalty and Service first. With an inclusive demographic representation and free of gender segregation.

7. And I dont mean that my task will be an easy one, as I am aware of the mammoth responsibilities with which this appointment comes, particularly to continue developing the Air Force in order to respond to the fast evolving threats and in alignment with the Air Force Vision which is..." To project air power that is on par with the best in the Region " and the Mission.

8. Director of Ceremony, briefly, during my tenure as Air Force Commander, we will first and foremost continue developing the Air Force in alignment with the Ministry of Defence's Strategic plans. **Secondly**, work

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towards the attainment of the Air Force's Vision which is "To Project air power that is on par with the best in the Region" along its Mission Statement.

9. To achieve this I shall continue working with the extra-ordinary and vibrant team of capable officers and men who have recently demonstrated during Operation Kalahari Desert, Operation Namib Desert, National Drought Relieve Operations, National Anti-Poaching Operation and the Implementation of State Regulations on COVID-19, just to mention but a few. They worked tirelessly around the clock in a patriotic spirit. And I am proud of your hardwork and dedication towards National Security. And I urge you all, men and women in blue to maintain the same spirit of tenacity.

10. And we wish we could do more was it not for the limitation of resources. For example, more than often the State Sectors require and request airlift and air transport from the Air Force. Therefore, the Air Force should be capacitated and equipped to undertake State missions such as transportation humanitarian aid like food aid, airlift for medical purposes, cross border air transportation of citizens to mention just a few. Hence the need to aquire and buy bigger transport aircrafts and helicopters.

11. Master of Ceremonies, lastly, allow me to once more thank the Chief of the Defence Force for this golden opportunity, Air Marshal Sir, I congratulate you on your recent promotion and appointment and wish you strength as you lead the Defence Force into the future.

I thank You