



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

THE PRESIDENCY

STATEMENT BY

HER EXCELLENCY, DR. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE NAMIBIAN DEFENCE

FORCE,

AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE NAMIBIAN DEFENCE

FORCE COUNTER TERRORISM LIVE FIRING EXERCISE

15 OCTOBER, 2025

ETIRO TRAINING BASE, KARIBIB, ERONGO REGION

**Director of Ceremonies, Air Commodore Nahor Gowaseb;
Honourable Natangwe Ithete, Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy;
Honourable Frans Kapofi, Minister of Defence and Veterans
Affairs;**

**Honourable Lucia Iipumbu, Minister of Home Affairs,
Immigration, Safety and Security; Honourable Dr. Charles
Mubita, Deputy Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs;
Rear Admiral (rtd) Sinsy, Ndeshi Bamba Nghipandua,
Director-General of Namibia Central Intelligence Service;
Honourable James Uerikua, Member of Parliament and
Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on
International Relations, Defence and Security, and
Committee Members here present;**

**Air Marshal Martin Kambulu Pinehas, Chief of the Namibian
Defence Force;**

**Honourable Natalia Goagoses, Governor of Erongo Region;
Honourable Davey Van Wyk, Councilor of Karibib
Constituency;**

**Her Worship Melania Ndjango, Mayor of the town of
Karibib;**

Ms. Annely Haiphene, Executive Director, Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs, and Other Executive Directors here present;

Distinguished Service Chiefs;

Service Commanders;

General Officers, Directors and Senior Government Officials here present;

Senior and Junior Officers;

Warrant Officers;

Senior and Junior Non-Commissioned Officers;

Men and women in uniform;

All invited guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I join you today, to celebrate another milestone on the training calendar of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF), as we witness the successful conclusion of the NDF's first-

ever and most comprehensive Counter-Terrorism Exercise, code-named Exercise //KHAU //AE.

I am informed that the name //KHAU //AE is derived from the Damara-Nama language, meaning “SHIELD TOGETHER.”

The choice of this name resonates well with the intended outcome of the exercise, and more importantly, it strengthens the position of the Government, which calls for the enactment of relevant laws and the establishment of counter-terrorism institutions that are aimed at deterring, combating and preventing potential terrorist threats that are directed against our Motherland.

The evolving nature and complexity of the threat of terrorism requires integrated planning, information sharing, cross-cutting stakeholder involvement, and the mobilisation of resources, both at national, regional and international levels. This is what is required, and what we must do as a Nation, in order to SHIELD our Motherland

from the scourge of terrorism, violent extremism, money laundering and transnational organized crime.

Director of Ceremonies,

It would be remiss of me if I fail to recognize, the astute leadership of Honourable Frans Kapofi and his able team who have conceived, planned and overseen the execution of this exercise.

To our men and women in uniform, and other participants from the security cluster who were the main players in this exercise, I wish to say: "WELL DONE." You have made our Nation proud, as you have demonstrated your firm commitment and dedication to the call of duty.

For the past seven (7) weeks of intensive training, you have displayed an extraordinary level of professionalism, dedication and cross-agency cooperation to execute various tasks that were assigned to you in line with the exercise scenarios. The purpose of the Government to allocate and spend resources in this exercise, both human,

material and financial, is very clear and unequivocal; it is to harness, strengthen, capacitate and build counter-terrorism preparedness and resilience in the country. I do not doubt that this exercise has achieved that goal.

I wish to commend the synergy demonstrated by the security cluster and all supporting government agencies which participated in the exercise. The seamless integration of air, land and intelligence assets proves that when our security cluster works as a team, and when our people are united with ONE HEART and ONE MIND, in the spirit of ONE NAMIBIA, ONE NATION, the security of the country is guaranteed.

Director of Ceremonies,

As you are aware, the geo-political risks that have recently been witnessed in two of our Sister Countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region namely the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique , where acts of terrorism and insurgency activities continue to destabilize and undermine peace and

security in those countries, should serve as a stark reminder of Namibia's vulnerability to potential danger posed by terrorism and violent extremism. We can, therefore, not afford to be complacent and assume that the threat of terrorism is far away from our national borders.

Exercise //KHAU //AE has honed our collective ability to detect, deter and decisively respond to any threat to our peace, sovereignty and democratic way of life. As the sun sets on Exercise //KHAU //AE, your work has not ended. Let the lessons learned here at Etiro be meticulously documented and immediately integrated into the Namibian Defence Force's Standing Operating Procedures.

I call upon the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs to ensure that training, re-training and exercising in Counter-Terrorism operations and preparedness remain part and parcel of the Namibian Defence Force's training curriculum. In this way, the skill-sets and competencies acquired during the exercise will be preserved for many years to come.

The eighth (8th) Administration remains steadfast in its commitment to providing you with the best training support you may require to meet your mandate. Our investment in our security forces is not an expenditure, but an investment in the future stability and prosperity of our Republic.

In order to achieve realism and equip our men and women in uniform with the best competencies to meet the war, fighting challenges of the 21st Century, it is expedient, upon the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs, to prioritize the provision of adequate physical infrastructure in order to maintain the highest standard of professionalism, and to boost the morale of the troops.

Efforts should be made to ensure, amidst limited national resources, that our men and women in uniform live in modern accommodation units, and have access to properly equipped and maintained training areas and firing ranges.

Furthermore, our troops should have access to modern sporting and recreational facilities not just to attract them

to live in the bases but not remain fit for the purpose. The availability of these facilities helps our soldiers to remain physically fit, ready to respond to any call of national duty.

Director of Ceremonies,

I wish to underscore the point that the world in which we live today, and in which we intend to fight and win battles and wars, has moved in leaps and bounds, in terms of technological development. As a country, we cannot afford to remain behind and turn a blind eye on what is happening around us in the domain of technology.

In this regard, I call upon the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs to prioritize the acquisition of state of the art military equipment and hardware that would give the Namibian Defence Force the leverage to fight and win battles in this technologically driven battlefield reality.

Director of Ceremonies,

As we aspire to develop and maintain a professional and competitive Defence Force, as envisaged in Vision 2030, we should be reminded that “Discipline is to the Profession of Arms as Knowledge is to Medicine.”

In this regard, I direct that cases of indiscipline among our troops be addressed head-on and expeditiously. I do not wish, as your Commander-In-Chief, to associate myself, let alone to lead a Defence Force that is undisciplined. Our aspiration and call, as a Nation, is to develop and maintain a professional Defence Force that can be ranked among the best Defence Forces in the SADC Region and beyond.

Director of Ceremonies,

I am aware that some of our men and women in uniform find comfort to side step the established chain of command to air their grievances to individuals and entities outside the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs. Some of our members have resorted to consulting political office

bearers to serve as their spokespersons to announce their grievances in the public domain. That is an uncalled for behavior among our troops, and can be a threat to our national security and should therefore not be tolerated. You must remain outside politics and remember ours is a caring and listening government. We are also sensitive to the wellbeing of our people let alone our men and women in uniform.

When you joined the NDF, you took your oath, affirmed your position to serve the Government of the Day and to protect the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. Allowing this kind of conduct to prevail in the NDF, goes against the values and principles of our democratic governance system and culture.

While the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia guarantees every Namibian citizen the right to exercise their democratic rights to belong to any political party of their choice, and to cast a vote in favour of these political parties, the Defence Policy prohibits active service members to wear and display their party colours while on

duty, or on any premises of the NDF, or to participate in political activities.

Equally, active service members are prohibited by the Defence Policy to hold public office other than their military appointments prescribed in the Defence Act. All those prohibitions are necessary as you hold a special position in the country and a unique responsibility that requires your commitment and undivided attention at all times.

Against that background, I call upon the Management of the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs, and the NDF to ensure that such unbecoming and unprofessional behaviour is rooted out of the Defence Force. Those who will be found on the wrong side of the law should answer for their misconduct.

Director of Ceremonies,

As I conclude, let me take this opportunity, once again, to express my profound gratitude and appreciation to the

Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs, to the Chief of the Defence Force, to the Director-General of Namibia Central Intelligence Service, to the Inspector-General of the Namibian Police, to the Commissioner-General of Namibia Correctional Service, and to the Service Commanders for mobilizing troops and equipment to facilitate the realization of this historical event.

I also wish to recognise and extend my gratitude to the local community of Erongo Region, and Karibib town in particular, for their support throughout this exercise. The cooperation of our citizens is the fourth pillar of our national security strategy.

Let us, therefore, leave this base today with renewed purpose to continue safeguarding the hard-won peace and stability that allows our economy to grow, our children to learn, and our democracy to flourish.

To all exercise participants, you have performed your duties with distinction, and rest be assured that your Commander-In-Chief is proud of you. As you return to your

respective units and duty stations, I implore you to always be vigilant and prepared to respond to any call of national duty.

**God bless the brave men and women of our security forces.
God bless the Republic of Namibia!**

**It is now my singular honour to declare Exercise //KHAU
//AE officially closed!**

I thank you.