



REMARKS BY
THE CHIEF OF THE NAMIBIAN DEFENCE FORCE,
AIR MARSHAL MARTIN KAMBULU PINEHAS,
DURING THE OCCASION OF CLOSING OF THE COUNTER-
TERRORISM EXERCISE CODE-NAMED "EXERCISE //KHAU //AE",

15 OCTOBER, 2025

ETIRO TRAINING AREA, KARIBIB
ERONGO REGION

- Your Excellency, Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia and Commander-in-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force;
- Honourable Natangwe lithete, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy;
- Honourable Frans Kapofi, Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs;
- Honourable Lucia lipumbu, Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security;
- Honourable, Selma Ashipala Musavyi Minister of International Relations and Trade;
- Honourable Rear Admiral (rtd) Sinsy, Ndeshi Bamba Nghipandua, Director-General of Namibia Central Intelligence Service;
- Honourable Dr Charles Mubita, Deputy Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs and other Deputy Ministers present;
- Honourable James Uerikua, Member of Parliament and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on International Relations, Defence and Security and the Committee Members present;
- Honourable, Natalia Goagose, Governor of Erongo Region;
- Honourable, Davey Van Wyk, Councilor Karibib Constituency;;

- Her Worship, Melania Ndjongo, Mayor of the town of Karibib Town;
- Mrs Annely Haiphene, Executive Director for the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs and other Executive Directors here present;
- Distinguished Service Chiefs;
- Service Commanders;
- General Officers and Equivalent, Directors and Senior Government Officials here present;
- Senior Officers and Junior Officers;
- NDF Sergeant Major and other Sergeant Majors present;
- Warrant Officers;
- Other ranks;
- Distinguished Invited Guests;
- Members of the Media;
- Exercise Participants;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning!

It is my profound honour and privilege to stand before you today at the closing of this intensive and highly successful Counter-Terrorism Exercise, code-named "Exercise //Khau //AE", here at Etiro Training Area, Karibib.

Your Excellency, on behalf of the Namibian Defence Force, I wish to express our deepest gratitude for honouring us with your presence today. Your attendance demonstrates not only your personal commitment to the security of our nation but also the confidence you place in the men and women who serve under your command. We are deeply humbled and inspired by your leadership.

I also extend my sincere appreciation to the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Cabinet Ministers, Honourable members of the Standing Committee on International Relations, Defence and Security, and all distinguished guests present. Your presence here today sends a powerful message of unity and collective resolve in safeguarding our beloved Republic.

Your Excellency,

Over the past weeks, we have witnessed multi-dimensional training scenarios and integrated operations involving the Namibian Defence Force and other Security Clusters. The focus of this exercise has been to enhance interoperability, operational readiness and perfect counter-terrorism response procedures. I am pleased to report that the mission has been successfully accomplished with exceptional discipline, professionalism, and tactical precision.

We have showcased our capabilities to rapidly deploy and sustain forces in semi-remote operational areas, conduct effective intelligence-led counter-terrorism operations, execute precision strikes with minimal collateral damage, and effectively manage and respond to both domestic and transnational terrorist threats. The dedication and commitment demonstrated by every participant throughout this training are a source of immense pride for our Defence Force and our nation.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests,

Today's global security environment is marked by unprecedented complexity and uncertainty. Across regions and continents, terrorism and violent extremism continue to evolve, exploiting new technologies, porous borders, socio-economic vulnerabilities, and the interconnectedness of our modern world. Terrorist networks have become more sophisticated, more adaptable, and more determined in their pursuit of destabilisation.

Although Namibia continues to enjoy peace and stability, blessings for which we remain profoundly grateful, we must never take these for granted. The global and regional trends in terrorism demand that we remain vigilant, adaptive, and united in our resolve to protect our people and our sovereignty. The threats we face today do not respect borders, and they require a coordinated, proactive, and robust response.

This exercise has once again demonstrated that the Namibian Defence Force remains firmly committed to fulfilling its constitutional mandate to defend the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of the Republic of Namibia. Beyond that, it reaffirms our determination to contribute actively to regional and continental peace and stability, in solidarity with our partners in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the African Union (AU), and the broader international community.

Your Excellency,

However, I must be candid with you and with this distinguished gathering. While our personnel have demonstrated exceptional professionalism and dedication, the Namibian Defence Force faces significant challenges in maintaining the level of readiness required to address contemporary security threats effectively.

The nature of modern warfare and counter-terrorism operations has changed dramatically. Today's threats require advanced intelligence capabilities, modern communication systems, sophisticated surveillance and reconnaissance equipment, rapid response capabilities, and specialised training in emerging areas such as cyber security and counter-drone operations. We must acknowledge that readiness requires more than courage, discipline, and patriotism, though these remain the foundation of our strength.

Our Defence Force requires adequate resources, modern equipment, advanced training facilities, enhanced intelligence capabilities, and improved conditions for the well-being of our personnel. The strength of any defence force lies not only in the skill and dedication of its soldiers but also in the support and confidence it receives from its nation and its leadership.

We face challenges in areas of mobility and logistics, modern equipment, infrastructure, specialised counter-terrorism equipment, intelligence gathering and analysis capabilities, and the retention of skilled personnel in an increasingly competitive environment. These are not insurmountable obstacles, but they require sustained attention, strategic investment, and collective commitment.

Your Excellency, Honourable Ministers, Members of the Standing Committee,

Therefore, I humbly appeal to you, to our government, and to the people of Namibia to continue and, where possible, to enhance support for the Defence Force. Every investment made in our readiness, whether through resources, training, technology, or infrastructure, is an investment in national stability, in economic progress, in regional security, and in the future prosperity of our Republic.

As the saying goes, "A secure nation is the foundation upon which all development is built." Without security, there can be no meaningful economic development, no sustainable growth, no lasting peace. The Namibian Defence Force stands as the ultimate guarantor of that security, and we require the tools and resources necessary to fulfil that sacred responsibility.

We must remember that as the world around us changes, so too must our approach to defence and security. We must continue to strengthen our partnerships, embrace innovation, adapt to emerging challenges, and invest in the capabilities that will keep Namibia safe not just today, but for generations to come.

Your Excellency,

I wish to reaffirm, on behalf of every member of the Namibian Defence Force, our unwavering commitment to uphold our constitutional mandate with honour, integrity, and excellence. We stand ready to respond, ready to protect, and ready to serve. We do so not for recognition or acclaim, but out of a deep and abiding sense of duty to our country and its people.

To our officers, men, and women in uniform who have participated in this exercise: you have once again demonstrated the true spirit of service and sacrifice. Your professionalism and dedication inspire confidence across our nation. The Namibian people sleep peacefully each night because they know you stand watch, ready to respond to any threat that may arise. Continue to serve with honour, humility, and pride in the uniform you wear.

Our mission is clear: to ensure that Namibia remains a beacon of peace, stability, and unity in our region and on our continent. With your continued support and collective will, Your Excellency, we will uphold that mission now and for generations to come.

Your Excellency,

Once again, thank you for honouring us with your presence today. Your leadership inspires us, and your confidence in our capabilities motivates us to strive for excellence in all that we do. I also extend my gratitude to all Honourable Cabinet Ministers present, to the Honourable members of the Standing Committee on International Relations, Defence and Security, and to all distinguished guests who have joined us today. Your support is invaluable to our mission.

Finally, may I now respectfully invite the Honourable Frans Kapofi, Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs and Member of Parliament, to introduce and invite Your Excellency, Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia and Commander-in-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, to deliver the Closing Remarks.

Thank you, and may our nation continue to stand strong, secure, and united.