

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**Talking Points for His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob,
President of the Republic of Namibia and
Commander-In-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force**

Commissioning of the Naval Training School

Tashiya Wilbard Nakada Barracks, Rooikop

Walvis Bay

July 22, 2016

Director of Ceremonies;

Honourable Penda Ya Ndakolo, Minister of Defence;

Honourable Ministers Present;

Lieutenant General John Mutwa, Chief of Defence Force;

Admiral Fernando Antonio de Siqueira Ribeiro, Brazilian Marine Corps Commandant General;

Lieutenant General Sebastian Ndeitunga, Inspector General of the Namibian Police;

General Raphael Hamunyela, Commissioner -General of the Namibian Correctional Services;

Rear Admiral Peter Hafeni Vilho, the Namibian Navy Commander;

Honourable Cleophas Mutjavikua, Governor of Erongo Region;

His Worship Immanuel Wilfred, Mayor of Walvis Bay;

Service Commanders;

Generals, Admirals and Flag Officers;
Members of the Brazilian Training Team
Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Captains of Industries;
Chief of the Topnaar Community;
Senior Officers;
Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers;
Members of media;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Ladies and gentleman;

1. Opening:

This is a great day in the history of Namibia's Defence Force, and I am honoured to join all of you in celebrating this occasion. As a nation whose freedom was watered by the blood of our fighting men and women, it is only fitting that we witness the continual growth and professionalization of the Namibian

Defence Force. Today, we are opening another chapter in the growth of our Defence Force as we observe two very important naval achievements; namely the commissioning of the Naval Training School and the Marine corps, respectively.

2. Growth of the Namibian Navy's Maritime operations:

Since its commissioning in 2004, the Navy has expanded its role of defending Namibia's maritime interests. As per our Defence Policy, the development and professionalization of the Navy shall be pursued until its desired capability is achieved. Obviously the pursuit of this goal will not take place in isolation. Other factors must always be considered, such as the War on Poverty, the problem of drought and the issue of water shortage. We must therefore use our resources wisely and prioritize on pressing needs.

However, wherever possible, necessary resources shall be made available to expand the Navy's capability from that of a coastal patrol, to that of maritime deterrence with force projection capability.

3. Navy's Mandate:

With a coastline stretching 1,570 kilometers, there is no question that Namibia's Navy has an important role to play both in peace times and in times of conflict.

During peacetime the Navy has the role of augmenting civil offshore patrol forces by providing the means and expertise to execute enforcement action effectively.

During wartime the Navy's role includes surveillance and security of our country's entire coastline, naval combat engagements, search and rescue operations, casualty evacuation, naval blockades and landward combat operations by maritime and seaborne forces.

Given the multidimensional role of the Navy, the establishment of the Marine Corps and Naval Training School is a crucial aspect of its ever increasing capabilities.

4. New and emerging security maritime threats:

In this post-cold-war era, threats to our national security have become varied and complex. Most of these threats are non-military and non-conventional in

nature. These threats often transcend national borders making it increasingly important for us to undertake collective action within multilateral organizations to provide adequate responses.

Piracy and other maritime crimes continue to threaten Africa's seas, thus negatively affecting the continent's ability to competitively trade with the rest of the world. National and regional instabilities that have allowed this scourge to fester and spread are a concern to Namibia. It is our intention to continue to participate in exercises with the navies of other littoral states of the South Atlantic, in the promotion of Maritime Security in the greater Atlantic Ocean region.

Towards this end, I am informed that as part of its ongoing training and preparation, our navy regularly participates in joint-exercises with fellow SADC navies under the auspices of its Standing Maritime Committee as part of its ongoing training and force preparation.

5. Recognition of assistance of foreign partners:

The rapid growth and development of Namibia's Navy has been made possible through the assistance of our foreign friends and partners, who have helped us to train our personnel over the past several years. This assistance, courtesy of our development partner Brazil, has helped us develop the Naval Training School, which to date, has trained over 700 naval graduates; an indication that the Namibian Navy is now in a position to build capacity and thus conduct training locally.

It is fitting that Admiral Fernando Antonio de Siqueira Ribeiro, the Brazilian Marine Corps Commandant General, is amongst us as a special guest at this event. May I therefore pause and request you to please

welcome Admiral Ribeiro with a round of applause. Admiral, we recognize the integral role played by Brazil in the formation of our Navy since 1994 to date. I am sure that this is just one of many milestones that we will celebrate together as friends. May we continue to consolidate our relationship in the spirit of South-South cooperation.

6. Requirements for being a marine:

I would now like to address these impressive young men and women of the Marine Corps. Choosing to become a marine is a calling that only applies to the chosen few. These men and women in front of you have chosen one of the noblest professions — this is a profession in which only the finest among the finest soldiers can make it to the last hurdle. Marines have been trained to be principled leaders, to be ethical

officers, to uphold the highest standards of honour and integrity. You are the cream of the crop and therefore you must always hold yourselves to the lofty standards of your profession. That is what your country expects from you.

To the sailors and marines; you must be ready to respond decisively to any threat that our country may face both onshore and offshore within the national boundaries and beyond, in the interest of protecting our Namibian House. You must cultivate a continuous culture of “esprit de corps” and unity in the Spirit of Harambee, in defence of our Namibian House . Discipline, honesty, diligence and courage should become the pillars of your character make-up. Your conduct should inspire our youth to look upon you with pride and dream of pursuing careers in the Namibian Navy.

To Admiral Vilho and your team, I congratulate you on this sterling achievement. This is an important milestone in the development of our maritime capabilities. Your vision and wisdom has contributed immensely to the establishment of these noble entities and has helped mold these men and women into the fine human beings they are today.

I would like to close off with a quote from Aristotle who said, *Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.*

Men and women of our navy, continue striving for excellence through constant training and habituation. Maintain your discipline and always chose to act rightly.

Build the habit of excellence and you will establish yourselves as the best of the best and the pride of the Land of the Brave. I thank you.

Commissioning Ceremony:

The President and Commander-In-Chief:

"I now direct the Chief of the Defence Force, Lieutenant General Mutwa to place the Marine Corps Battalion into commission".