

**NEW YEAR MESSAGE BY HONOURABLE PENDA YA  
NDAKOLO, MINISTER OF THE DEFENCE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, DELIVERED ON MONDAY, 13  
FEBRUARY 2017, AT THE DEFENCE  
HEADQUARTERS, WINDHOEK**

**Honourable Billy W. Mwaningange, Deputy Minister of  
Defence**

**Mr Petrus Shivute, Permanent Secretary**

**Lieutenant General John Mutwa, Chief of the Defence  
Force**

**Mr Abraham Iilonga, Deputy Permanent Secretary**

**General Officers**

**Directors**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Good Morning!**

1. Welcome back from the festive season 2016/2017. I am glad to see all of you present here back so that, together, we can assume our official duties for the year 2017.
2. The purpose of our gathering here this morning is to welcome each other back and to formally mark the beginning of our official duties in the New Year, although we have started from the very beginning of the year. Therefore, on behalf of the leadership of Ministry of Defence, the Namibian Defence Force and my own behalf, I welcome you all.
3. I hope you have used the festive season to spend some quality time with your loved ones and communities,

and have gathered enough strength to begin 2017 with renewed passion and commitment.

4. His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia and Commander-in-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force, has declared 2017 as the year of rededication. Thus, the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force must comply with His Excellency the President's clarion call and set the trend in making rededication a reality.
5. Rededication should mean a demonstration of tangible results in our performance and an upbeat attitude towards our duties. It should mean each one of us would be doing his or her job to the best of our abilities and ensuring that whatever we do is adding real value to the vision and mission of the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force, which is primarily the defence of our sovereignty and territorial integrity of our motherland.
6. Rededication should mean effective and efficient implementation of all our annual plans at all levels of the Ministry of Defence and the Defence Force.
7. It should signify doing much with the little resources at our disposal and eliminating waste and inefficiencies wherever they might be in the management and administration of our defence system.
8. You are aware that the Ministry is operating in a resource-constrained environment, which could mean that some of our planned activities and projects might not be implemented due to resource constraints. Therefore, efficiency and prioritisation should be the guiding principles in all our efforts towards the achievement of our objectives during 2017.

9. It is general knowledge that our national economy is not performing to our expectations at the moment, which means that the resources available for allocation to the different competing national needs and sectors could be overstretched. As a result, we need to use sparingly the resources allocated to the defence sector.
10. Let us hope the good rains we are receiving, since the beginning of this year, will help our national economy to pickup, especially in the agriculture and construction sectors. Therefore, all of us should take advantage of the good rains to farm in order to produce enough food for our families and communities.
11. With regard to the defence priorities for 2017, the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force will focus on the following:
  - a) Human resources development to ensure that we maintain our students who are already attending courses both in Namibia and outside the country;
  - b) Welfare of staff members, including looking after the health of our personnel and the rehabilitation of accommodation and other facilities of our troops, amongst others;
  - c) Equipping of the Defence Force by utilizing available funds;
  - d) Proper preparations of training exercises to waste;
  - e) Finalisation of the Defence Review for better service delivery;
  - f) Finalisation of MOD Strategic and Annual Plans;
  - g) Continuous implementation of Performance Agreement as well as submission of quarterly reports on time; and

h) Honouring of bilateral and international obligations.

12. To achieve these goals and objectives, we should all work as a team and continue to maintain high levels of performance, discipline and professionalism.
13. The task of defending Namibia and its people requires us to be always conscious of the military and political situation in our neighbourhood and at the international level.
14. Today's military and political events are difficult to estimate with precision. But we all know that the world is being more polarised, with nations tending to protect their own backyards and interests as opposed to the promotion of the common good of all nations, including international peace and security.
15. There is an escalation in the competition for natural resources and the race for the occupation of advantageous global positions of power.
16. As things stand, we are likely to witness changing military and political environments in many parts of the world resulting in the formation and realignment of new alliances in the coming five to ten years.
17. This means that we, as the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force, must be ahead of our time and moving with the times. Otherwise, we will find ourselves lagging behind and losing the ability to defend our country and its people.
18. To conclude, let me reiterate that among our top priorities for 2017, as the Ministry of Defence and the Namibian Defence Force, are human resources development, welfare of staff members, equipping of the Defence Force and continuous implementation of

Performance Agreement timely as well as submission of quarterly reports as required.

19. We can only achieve tangible results in these priority areas if we work as a team that is always abiding by high standards of performance, discipline and professionalism.

20. We must, therefore, live and act in the spirit of rededication as directed by His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia and Commander-in-Chief of the Namibian Defence Force.

**I THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!**