

TRIBUTE MAGAZINE

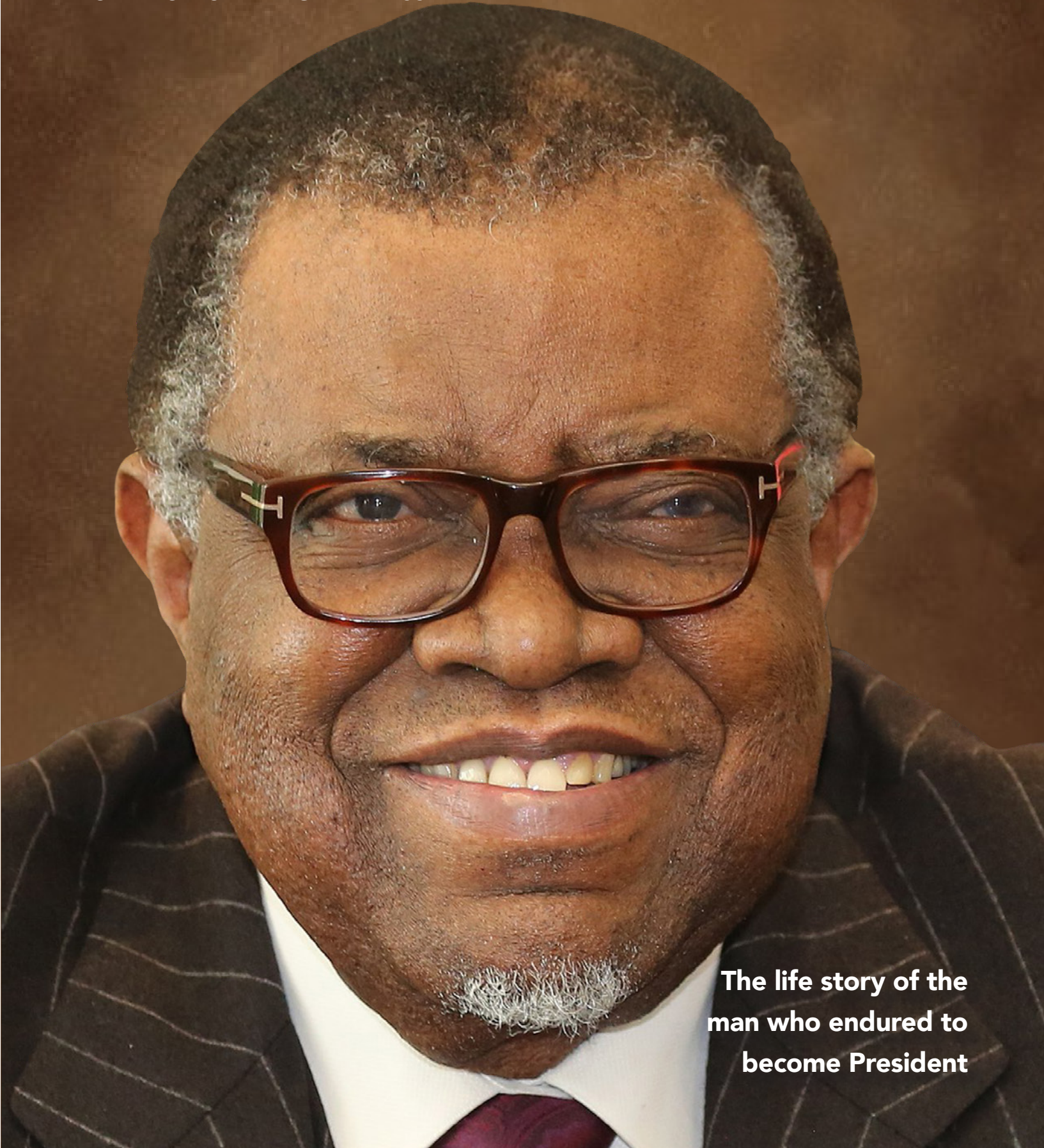
PRESIDENT

HAGE GOTTFRIED GEINGOB

BORN TO ACHIEVE GREATNESS

Omake

1941 - 2024



The life story of the
man who endured to
become President

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



PRESIDENT HAGE GOTTFRIED GEINGOB

- In 1980, awarded the Palmes Academiques (Officer Class) by the French Government in recognition of valuable services in education.
- In 1987, awarded Ongulumbashe Medal (SWAPO) for bravery and long service.
- In 1994, awarded LL.D. Honoris Causa by Columbia College, Illinois.
- In 1994, awarded the second highest order in Cuba, Carlos Manuel de Cespedes.
- In 1994, awarded the Order of the Sun, 1st Class by the Government of Namibia for providing outstanding political leadership.
- In 1995, awarded LL.D. (Doctorate o Laws) Honoris Causa by the University of Delhi, India.
- In 1997, awarded LL.D. (Doctorate o Laws) Honoris Causa by the University of Namibia.
- In 1998, awarded Doctorate of Humane Letters (Honoris Causa) by the American University of Rome.
- In 1998, elected Chairman of the 14th Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance.
- In 2004, appointed member of the International Board of Governors of the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) of Canada.
- In 2006, was appointed as member of the Trustco Group Holdings board of directors - the biggest Namibian conglomerate to date.

Celebrating the life of
**His Excellency President
Hage Geingob,**
President of the
Republic of Namibia

PRESIDENT **HAGE GOTTFRIED** **GEINGOB**

Tribute Magazine

THE TEAM:

EDITOR IN CHIEF	Pohamba Shifeta
EDITOR	Brian Prince
LAYOUT	Fiona Nandago Nicodemus Nairenge
CONTRIBUTORS	Dr Phillip Santos David Adetona (Tangi) Opeyemi Toriola Uendjizuvira Kandanga Sibangani Dube Seria Pieters Uendjii Njembo Ivy Gaaitsiwe Ndapanda Nekongo Mathilde Hinanifa Lelly Kamukwatange Vezembouua Kavejata

CREDIT GOES TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

Trustco Group Holdings Ltd
New Era Newspaper
The Namibian Newspaper
National Youth Council of Namibia
SWAPO party Archives
Confidente Newspaper



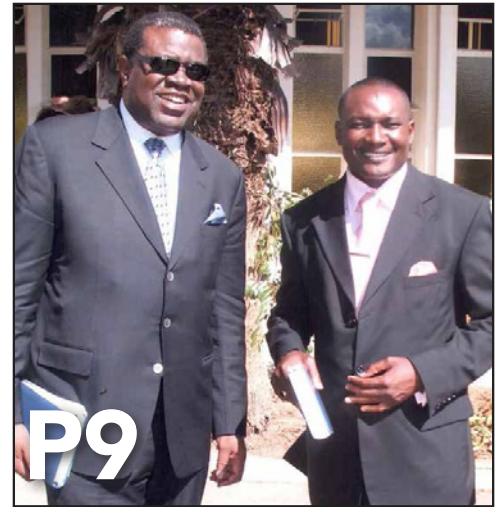
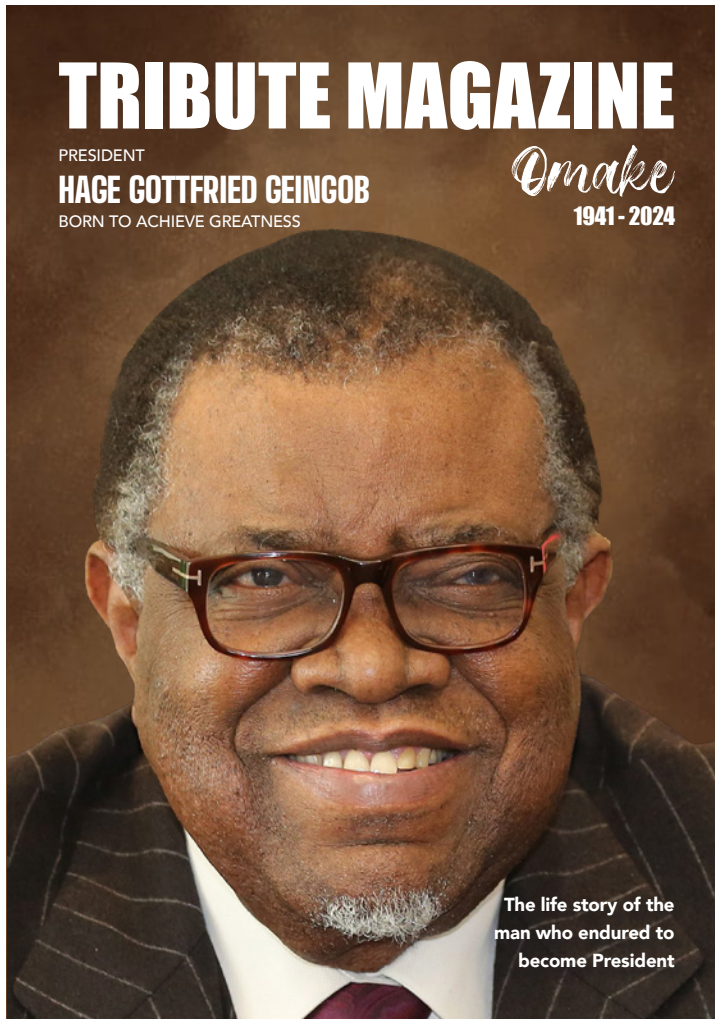
CONTACT DETAILS:

Platinum Studio Communication
Brian Prince 081 227 1759
Email: platinumstudios.communications@gmail.com

PRINTED BY:

Hakahana Commercial Printers

CONTENTS



Born to achieve greatness	9
Messages of Condolences from world leaders	6
From the Editor	10
The man I know very well as a personal friend	12
Unto ss a President was born	14
Protest letter	17
Journey into Exile	21
Life in Exile	25
Quote from President Geingob's speeches	28
The Founding Prime Minister	34
"New Namibian House" Analogy	38
President Hage Gottfried Geingob – Namibia's 3rd President	41
Other achievements	42
President Hage Geingob, more of an elder statesman than a politician	48
Family man	54
Policy Direction as SADC Chairperson	60
Families and friends mourn	62
President Geingob	64

MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE FROM WORLD LEADERS



CYRIL RAMAPHOSA
President of South Africa

"He was also greatly influential in the solidarity that the people of Namibia extended to the people of South Africa so that we could be free today."



BOLA TINUBU
President of Nigeria

"I mourn the painful loss of a veteran in the struggle for democracy, a proponent of good governance, and an advocate for economic, social, and political solidarity among African peoples. This tragedy comes at a time when Africa is in dire need of more visionary leaders who believe in our common destiny and who can strengthen the bonds across our borders and spread the tendrils of cooperation in all fields of human endeavour."



SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN
President of Tanzania

"A dear brother, a venerable pan-Africanist, and a great friend of Tanzania."



NANGOLO MBUMBA
President of Namibia.

"Our nation remains calm and stable owing to the leadership of President Geingob who was the chief architect of the Constitution."



Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah
Vice President of Namibia

It is with sadness that I learned of the untimely passing of our President, Comrade Hage Geingob. A true democratic and a transformational leader who touched many lives.

His legacy will live on in our hearts and minds. I join all of you in sharing our deepest condolences to the bereaved family and the entire nation. May His Soul Rest in Peace.



THE U.S. EMBASSY
U.S. Mission to the Republic of Namibia

"President Geingob was a valued partner throughout his decades of public service. The U.S. Embassy has deep appreciation and respect for our decades-long relationship

with President Geingob dating to the early days of Namibia's independence, when Geingob served as the first Prime Minister of Namibia. We salute his dedication to democratic values and commitment to building systems, processes, and institutions in service to the Namibian people. Today, we honour his memory and extend our deepest condolences to his family, the Namibian Government, and the people of the Land of the Brave."



MAHMOUD ABBAS
President of the State of Palestine

As we share in your sorrow over his departure, we extend our heartfelt condolences to you, the friendly people of Namibia, and the noble family of the deceased. We pray for his soul to rest in peace and tranquillity. May you and your people find solace, goodness, and prosperity in these challenging times."



**THE PARLIAMENT
OF SOUTH AFRICA**

"This loss is not only deeply felt by Namibians but also reverberates throughout the entire SADC region and the African continent. We mourn the passing of an outstanding revolutionary and dedicated statesman who led with wisdom, integrity, diplomacy, and a deep passion for his people."



EMMERSON MNANGAGWA
President of Zimbabwe

"Southern African Development Community (SADC) has lost a liberation stalwart and icon. We deeply cherish the exemplary role that he played in consolidating the excellent relations that exist between Zimbabwe and Namibia, as well as in advancing the integration agenda of our regional body, SADC, and the cause of the African peoples and continent."



MOKGWEETSI MASISI
President of Botswana

"Geingob as a true friend of Botswana. We deeply value his support in building an extraordinary partnership our two countries and people enjoy today. We honor his legacy, mourn his passing, and remain committed to our steadfast friendship and cooperation,"



HAKAINDE HICHILEMA
President of Zambia

"Geingob as a true friend, liberation icon, senior African statesman, and elder brother."



XI JINPING
President of China

"An outstanding leader of Namibia, he promoted the in-depth development of the China-Namibia comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation during his lifetime and made important contributions to boosting China's friendship with Namibia and Africa."



DATUK SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM
Prime Minister of Malaysia

"On behalf of the government and people of Malaysia, I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the first lady Madame Monica Geingos and the bereaved family of the late president, the government and people of Namibia."



**NAMIBIA INVESTMENT
PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT
BOARD**

"His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob valued efficiency and stability. He has often emphasised that Namibia "is not a one-man show" and his legacy is rooted in his belief and ethos that Namibia is a country that is efficiently run through systems, processes and institutions."



UNESCO
Namibia office

"We extend our deepest condolences to the government and people of Namibia for the passing of H.E. Hage Geingob. He was a fierce advocate of multilateralism and international cooperation. May he rest in peace."



PETER KATJAVIVI
Chairperson of the National
Assembly.

"A statesman of the highest order, a beacon of hope and unity for the Namibian people and the entire SADC region. His dedication to the principles of democracy, justice and equity paved the way for significant progressing unity in our nation and the SADC region at large."



ACHPR
(African Commission on Human and
Peoples' Rights)

"President Geingob was a prominent human rights defender who was pivotal in advancing human rights, democracy, and socio-economic development in Namibia. His unwavering commitment to the principles enshrined in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights has been a guiding light for the nation and an inspiration to us all."



BORN TO ACHIEVE GREATNESS

There are three categories of people in the world when talking about greatness. The born greats. Born into riches and fame, with silver spoons in their mouth. They never struggled to attain success.

The second have greatness entrusted to them. They are conferred with greatness. And the third are born to achieve greatness. Here are people born into poverty. They work hard, toil night and day come rain come sunshine. They know no rest. However, through their sweat they eventually attain greatness.

President Hage Geingob was born into a poor family but worked hard his way to greatness. His journey to glory was not an easy one. It was a long and bitter struggle that came as a result of sacrifice, determination, resilience and the spirit to never give up no matter the odds. It's so amazing that President Geingob's life journey started at a cattle post, on a remote farm in the Grootfontein area, to the State House in Auasblich, Windhoek.

Brian Prince the Editor of this exclusive magazine, and I have worked tirelessly to ensure that President Geingob's story is told and brought to the attention of you, the Namibian reader, and the world at large to get a glimpse of the difficult, winding, and treacherous road our dear departed President travelled to get to where he reached during his lifetime. It chronicles the life and history of our country's third democratically elected President. It is a story that inspires, moves people, and relives the bitter struggle to free Namibia from the claws of minority domination and oppression.

Philosopher Aristotle describes death as "happiness after death." He describes the dead as "The ones who have completed their labour". President Geingob, though we were not prepared for your sudden departure, but of late, you gave us signals that not many of us understood or translated to be your sudden departure.

Those of us you left behind pledge to cherish your legacy.

Go well President, till we meet again.

It is our humble wish that you, the readers will have a great time reading this exclusive magazine!

**Pohamba Shifeta,
Editor-In-Chief**



**His journey to glory
was not an easy one.**

FROM THE EDITOR



Brian Prince

Geingob, the life story of a man who persisted in becoming the President, chronicles the forces that shaped Namibia's third President, and why he thought and acted the way he did.

I am truly honoured to work on a groundbreaking history into President Hage Geingob's life, and the forces that shaped and sustained him.

In this tribute magazine titled "President Hage Gottfried Geingob; the Life Story of the Man Who Endured to Become President" we have produced a deeply, well-researched account of President Geingob's life with fresh insight and revealing information derived from interviews, including with President Geingob when he became the President-Elect and while still ruling as President of Namibia. Information was also sourced from journals, articles from local and international newspapers, magazines, documents, communiques, and SWAPO archives.

This story unfolds from a small settlement called Brittenbach in the Grootfontein district.

It is a heroic tale of accomplishment, of frustration, change in positions, movement from one place to another, of struggle with friends and compatriots, hopes dashed, and hopes delayed. It is an account of a life journey punctuated by trials, tribulations, and successes as President Geingob grew into adulthood and journeyed from Brittenbach settlement to Otjiwarongo, Tsumeb, and to Statehouse in Windhoek, a process he took in trying to make sense of his past, to establish his identity and his political future.

Geingob, the life story of a man who persisted to become the President,

chronicles the forces that shaped Namibia's third President, and why he thought and acted the way he did.

Although President Geingob has departed, his footprint remains in the sand of time.

Adieu President Geingob, Adieu "Omake", Adieu "Axaba".

Rest well in the bosom of your Lord



A story is like a poem. It moves not by how long it is, not how eloquent or complicated. It moves by offering an experience or moment through which we grasp the feeling or insight, the poet communicates.

- Marshall Ganz



THE MAN I KNOW VERY WELL AS A PERSONAL FRIEND - Pohamba Shifeta

Citizens view their leaders differently; as diplomats, technicians, freedom fighters, the family man and so on. To Pohamba Shifeta, the editor-in-chief of this "Tribute Magazine", his first meeting with President Hage Geingob, (then the Prime Minister), established a picture of one of those "strictly serious" and "unapproachable" leaders. In "The Namibian Newspaper" article, titled "The Man I Know Very Well As a Personal Friend", published in 2002, Shifeta, in congratulating the then Rt Honourable Prime Minister Hage Geingob on his 61st birthday, revealed how he met him in his hey days as the Rt Honourable Prime Minister and the manner of a person he thought him to be.

"My first meeting with him was in 1989 at a social function in Windhoek. My first experience with him raised so many thoughts on my mind. I thought the man to be anti-social and unapproachable. He looked strictly serious and disapproved of everything before you even said a word. I placed him in the category of those "Tates" who can be unnecessarily strict and cannot entertain any diverse opinions or views from their children."

On the contrary however, my thoughts were proven wrong when I started to know him, and it took less than two years before I became his personal friend. I have learned a lot from him and this has contributed much to my personal life."

Through interaction with him, I came to know him as a friendly person, generous, very professional and immaculate; he is pro social and an extrovert, he is very benevolent but quick to respond in affirmation to make his point."

On the occasion of his 61st birthday, I would like to congratulate the Right Honourable Prime Minister. Many more years and prosperous life."





I dedicate this Portrait to Dr Hage Godfried Geingob. You were my hero and even in death you are still my hero. May Your Soul Rest In Peace. For your portrait call Lilly @0818662597

UNTO US A PRESIDENT WAS BORN



President Geingob attended his first school in Otavi, a settlement not far from Kharaes. Kharaes was also known as Otjikururume (meaning old place) because most places in those areas had names in Damara, Herero and German.

NAMIBIA'S third democratically elected President Hage Gottfried Geingob, was born on 3rd August 1941 at a cattle post on a small farm called Brittenbach. Brittenbach is situated a few kilometres outside Grootfontein, a town 459 kilometres, northeast of Windhoek. His parents were William Geiseb and Rosalia Geingos. President Geingob was the firstborn in a family of four children. His siblings are Immanuel, Erna, and Aguseb. Aguseb, the last born was three months old when their mother passed on. President Geingob and Erna were cared for by their mother's younger sister, Hendrina Geingos, while Immanuel and Aguseb were raised by their grandparents.

President Geingob was born into a poor family. He came from a strong Christian background. Therefore, he was raised with good Christian values and was never fed with a golden spoon.

President Geingob moved with his parents from Brittenbach to another farm called Tsabis also in the Grootfontein district, and later, to his grandparents in Kharaes where he grew up. President Geingob's grandparents had their own "empire."

Although the colonial masters at that time were very racist and brutal, the German family his grandparents worked for was very kind. Due to their kindness, the grandparents had land to cultivate, built their own home, and owned cattle. President Geingob had his cattle too, and was always helping his grandparents to plough.

President Geingob attended his first school in Otavi, a settlement not far from Kharaes. Kharaes was also known as Otjikururume (meaning old place) because most places in those areas had names in Damara, Herero and German.

He studied up to standard three (3), the highest Grade available in Otavi for blacks at that time, and moved to Tsumeb where he stayed with his aunt while doing a correspondence course in teaching.

The boy from a poor

Continues on page 15

man who endured to become President



President Geingob with comrades during the liberation struggle in Exile

Continues from page 14

background was admitted to Augustineum Training College. (Augustineum was then known for training teachers) where he first did his Standard Five and Six before enrolling for a Teacher Training Course at the College.

President Geingob's inspiration to study at Augustineum Training College in 1957 was engineered by Ben Amadhila. (Ben Amadhila later became a member of the Namibian Parliament and a Cabinet Minister). Ben and his group came to perform at a concert, which took place at the school, and President Geingob was so impressed with the school's dress code that he vowed to study at Augustineum Training College. In 1958, he became a student at the college. While studying at Augustineum, he was also doing his JEC through correspondence and passed both courses.

By the time President Geingob finished his Teacher Training Course, his grandfather moved from Kharaes to another farm in Otjiwarongo. President Geingob also moved with him. In 1962 while in Otjiwarongo, he got a call to teach at Augustineum.

President Hage Geingob, with a late friend Linekela Kalenga, also a teacher, and other progressive teachers at Augustineum Secondary School changed the face of Tsumeb in a very short time. They organised political meetings, mobilised learners to rise and fight the apartheid regime that was subjecting black people to unimaginable suffering. By then, both Geingob and Kalenga had other plans; to leave the country and join the liberation struggle.



President Hage Geingob, with a late friend Linekela Kalenga, also a teacher, and other progressive teachers at Augustineum Secondary School changed the face of Tsumeb in a very short time.



PROTEST LETTER

In 1962, President Geingob became the branch secretary of SWAPO in Tsumeb.

"As was the norm those days, SWAPO members would gather at Tate Levi Muashekele's house every Friday for political meetings. It was at one of those political meetings in 1962 that I first met Mzee Kaukungwa. Mzee came from Windhoek to address SWAPO members in Tsumeb and to inform us that Hifikepunye Pohamba the second democratically elected President of the Republic of Namibia and Mwatile, a comrade, were being evicted from Windhoek back to the north, that they would be passing through Tsumeb. Myself and other loyal SWAPO members in Tsumeb were at the bus station, where we met President Pohamba on his way back to the north. There we discussed the political situation in the country."

(Simon Hafeni Kaukungwa, well known as Mzee, was one of the first political activists in Namibia).

The encounter at the bus station marked the beginning of President Geingob and Former President Pohamba's relationship. To this day President Pohamba remarks that President Geingob is his oldest political friend.

President Geingob's political interest in his country knows no bound. He met with Toivo ya Toivo. "I was taking a stroll in the company of a friend Gotfried Gouseb, a member of the SWANU Party, in the streets of Tsumeb and saw Andimba Toivo ya Toivo. We approached and introduced ourselves. The three of us engaged in political discussion and we parted ways."

That same Christmas evening, Toivo ya Toivo was arrested at the Compound. He was charged with being at the Compound illegally. President Geingob met other



political giants in his youthful political career, "I met liberation icons like Peter Mweshihange, Helao Ndadi and Kanana Hishono. Kanana Hishono officially signed my SWAPO membership card in 1962."

President Geingob's political affiliation with SWAPO dates back as far as before 1962. During that time there were only two political parties in existence, SWAPO and SWANU.

SWAPO was for the AaWambo and SWANU for the OvaHerero. Because he believed the two parties were fighting for the same cause, President Geingob advocated for unity among the two political parties.

"SWAPO and SWANU, both of us were fighting for the same cause, so I advocated for unity among us, and this led to the signing of an agreement by both parties to

Continues on page 18 →



President Geingob (Right) with late Comrade Toivo ya Toivo (middle) And Anton Lubowski (Left)

← Continues from page 17

become one party. However, the agreement did not last long."

The first United Nations (UN) delegation came on a fact-finding mission to Namibia in 1962. The delegation visited Tsumeb to ascertain the extent of oppression and living standards of blacks. "The apartheid administration arranged a line-up of puppets to paint a picture that blacks in Tsumeb were living very well. To counter this false impression, Linekela Kalenga, my political associate, and I planned to meet the UN delegation to deliver a protest letter. Both of us were denied access by the apartheid administration commissioner in Tsumeb." The apartheid commissioner requested the letter be handed over to him for submission to the UN which they refused. Both President Geingob and Kalenga were told to come back the following day to meet the UN delegation, and that marked the beginning of their harassment by the apartheid government. "In the end, we were successful in delivering our letter

to the UN, explaining the pathetic living conditions of our people."

Based on their action, while teaching in class, President Geingob was summoned to the police station for questioning. Kalenga followed him.

The police demanded to know what was in their letter to the United Nations. "I boldly informed the police of the content of the letter. I was allowed to go but with a warning that I'm under surveillance."

President Geingob's aunt was so afraid that he must have committed a serious crime because of his actions. "My aunt was scared of the constant brush with the police. In one incident and to protect me, my aunt on seeing in the vicinity, a police officer called Amapindi, known for cruelty, panicked and tore all my school correspondence papers written in English because she thought they were political documents that could implicate me."



They were denied access by the apartheid administration commissioner in Tsumeb who requested the letter to be handed over to him for submission to the UN





They also worked out a strategy that Kalenga with the original pass will be in front while others would follow when they get to the checkpoint.



JOURNEY INTO EXILE

Towards the end of 1962, President Geingob's friends, Kalenga, Gouseb and Naseb, (Gouseb and Naseb were from SWANU) decided to go abroad. "Being the SWAPO branch secretary, I initially was not willing to join them, but the thought of being interrogated now and then by the police made me change my mind. I feared that I would face problems if I remained behind alone."

President Geingob, with his friend Kalenga, made up their mind and agreed not to announce their departure from Namibia, but to just disappear instead. They planned to travel to Botswana. They got a lift to Windhoek from one Tate Kaula. Tate Kaula was on his way to Gobabis with his wife for a holiday. "SWANU was to organise transport from Windhoek to Gobabis for us, but this was not the case on our arrival in Windhoek. We, therefore, continued the journey to Gobabis with Tate Kaula."

President Geingob and his friends needed permits to go to Gobabis, and to pass through the police checkpoint at Witvlei. "Only Kalenga had an original teacher's pass issued in Windhoek. I had a temporary one issued in Tsumeb. Gouseb and Naseb had nothing because they were not teachers. With the help of a female church worker, both Gouseb and Naseb got fabricated teachers' passes." They worked out a strategy on how to beat the police at the checkpoint. "We said, Kalenga, who had the original pass would be in front while we follow. Luck smiled at us, and our plan worked out. The police only checked Kalenga's teacher's pass and allowed us to go through."

In Gobabis, President Geingob and



his friends met with Chief Hosea Kutako. Chief Hosea Kutako was the founder and national leader of the SWANU. President Geingob informed him of their plans.



A coloured Herero-speaking young man who knew the area well assisted them to the border between Namibia and Botswana.

President Geingob was one of the few politicians who met with Hosea Kutako while he was alive. Hosea Kutako supported their plan to go out of the country. "Chief Hosea Kutako told us of many others, like Sam Nujoma, who had already passed through the same road."

A coloured Herero-speaking young man who knew the area well assisted

them to the border between Namibia and Botswana. He also informed them on how to get into Botswana through the 4 kilometres "No man's land" and between Botswana and South Africa border. "He covered us with blankets and drove us to the border. We planned to cross the border on Christmas day when the 'Boer' police would be distracted by Christmas 'suikerbos' enjoyment. So we began the walk into the bush, as directed by the Herero-speaking young man. We had problems with directions, got lost and confused but eventually we got to Buitepos Border Post."

As anticipated, they found the 'Boer' police having their 'suikerbos'. President Geingob suggested they wait until the early morning hours when the 'Boer' police would be tired and asleep. At 4 am, they crossed Buitepos Border Post.

Continues on page 22



Continues from page 21

"We arrived at a Herero settlement where we were well received and provided with food, and water and were hidden in a hut. Our big problem was how to move forward from the border."

The plan was to go to Maun in Botswana where SWANU office was situated but getting transport was a problem. At last, they got a truck, loaded with people, paid the fare and left.

"We travelled along bad roads, through the night before we eventually arrived at a small village where Daniel Manuamava had a house. Manuamava, with suspicion, had a discussion with Gouseb and Naseb from SWANU about who President Geingob and Kalenga were. When he heard we were SWAPO, he refused to help us. Kalenga and I decided to travel to Francistown where the SWAPO office was."

They travelled in a truck. Along the journey, the truck developed an engine problem. They spent a week in the bush waiting for the truck to be repaired.

"We had to share blankets to protect ourselves from the cold and the unbearable mosquito bites, as well as survive with extreme hunger and thirst. We struggled to get water and food."

Fortunately, another truck arrived to help, and they arrived to Maun. "Maun was free of apartheid. It was in Maun that Kalenga and I, for the first time in our lives, experienced what it was like to be free. We drank beer and enjoyed ourselves." The following day, they travelled to Francistown where the SWAPO office was located.

It was in Maun that Kalenga and I, for the first time in our lives, experienced what it was like to be free. We drank beer and enjoyed ourselves



Chief Hosea Kutako
National leader and founder of SWANU

President Geingob speaking on the podium during the first election campaign in 1989. With him from left to right: Nathaniel Maxulili, Hidipo Hamutenya, Daniel Tjongarero



LIFE IN EXILE

On arrival in Francistown, President Geingob and Kalenga met Maxton Josef Mutongolume, and Peter Nanyemba.

Maxton and Nanyemba were in charge of the SWAPO office in Francistown. It was in Francistown that President Geingob and Kalenga experienced the true reality of being in exile. They rented a room which was used as a meeting place.

Every evening they would go to a bar where people socialise, and identify Namibians. "We identify the Namibians through the language, recruiting and mobilising them to go to SWAPO camps and train to fight. The bar was the recruitment place. Dimo Hamaambo, who became the Commander of PLAN, (People's Liberation Army of Namibia the military wing of SWAPO), was recruited in that manner. Training and exercises were carried out in the bush using wood as weapons."

Mutongolume was apprehended and extradited to South Africa. "When Peter Nanyemba took over as director of the SWAPO office, food became scarce. The daily meals turned into 'pap' with sugar or Mopane worms. It was a hard time. I had my bed outside where I slept for one year and four months." Despite how temperatures in Botswana would plummet during the night, President Geingob only had one thin blanket to keep him warm. As a result, he developed a chest problem which he continuously nursed. "Later on, I got the canopy of a bakkie which I turned into my makeshift home. Life became very tough for us."

President Geingob got his first introduction to communism and the Africa National Congress (ANC) in Francistown. "In Francistown, I met Samora Machel, Joe Slovo, David Max and other ANC cadres. They were communists." ANC gave them a lecture and informed them that a plane had been arranged to take people to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. Peter Nanyemba suggested that



The late Peter Eneas Nanyemba

Every evening they would go to a bar where people were socialising, and try to identify Namibians through the language recruiting and mobilising them to go to SWAPO camps and train to fight.

they get two SWAPO members on board the plane. President Geingob was one of the two. "At 2:15 am, the plane to Tanzania arrived.

I and the other SWAPO comrade made our way, from a meeting at Commissioner Steenkamp's house, to board the plane. About 25 meters from the Commissioner's house, we heard a loud noise and saw a big ball of smoke. A bomb had been placed on the plane but luckily it exploded. We were supposed to board at 5 am, but it exploded because the timing of the bomb was wrong. It was supposed to explode once we were all on the plane, luckily it exploded too soon."

The bombing of the plane did not deter President Geingob from his determination to leave Francistown. The opportunity to leave arrived when another plane landed at the refugee camp. "When the plane landed at the refugee camp, many people ran away fearing they were to be taken for military training. The pilot explained his mission and 47 people boarded. I and two other SWAPO members, Flemius and Loide, (later married to Mweshihange) boarded the plane without caring where the flight was heading to." The plane was on its way to the former Congo (now Democratic Republic of Congo). Andreas Shipanga the SWAPO representative in Congo welcomed them and they were transferred to the refugee camp.

President Geingob had a letter in his possession that read that the UN was in the process of offering him a scholarship. He presented the letter to the UN representative in Congo who promised to give him immediate attention. It was not until after a month that President Geingob got the reply. All this time he was staying at the refugee camp where life was hard.

PRESIDENT

HAGE



A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized, cursive script with a large, loopy initial and a trailing flourish.



President Geingob got his first introduction to communism and South Africa's Africa National Congress (ANC) in Francistown. It was in Francistown that he met Samora Machel, Joe Slovo, David Max and other ANC cadres.



Quotes from President Geingob speeches

"I have often said that Namibia is a Child of International Solidarity, friend to all and enemy to none."

On the 25 Independence celebration and swearing in as the 3rd Democratically elected President.

"Let me tell you here that as long as I am given the mandate to lead this great country, the freedom of the press is guaranteed."

During the World Press Freedom Day, 2017

"We will continue to promote the SADC Agenda to realise sustainable development, poverty eradication, food security, peace, youth and gender empowerment. And additionally, a conducive environment for economic development shared prosperity and enhancing the quality of life of the people of this region is a mandate we should fulfil."

On unity, living standards and well-being of citizens within SADC Countries.

"Tribalism, racism and regionalism do not have a place in any society and is a recipe for disaster."

Meeting of regional governors, 10 July 2020

"At this juncture, I wish to express my appreciation for the progress made so far in ensuring that intra-Africa trade and investment, which has the greatest potential for building sustainable economic development and integration in Africa, is at the core of our discussions."

On self-sustainability and collective reliance within African Countries.

"As we work for a better Namibia in which no one should feel left out, let us hold hands in the spirit of Harambee."

During the Heroes Day, 26 August 2018

"It is disheartening to learn that some citizens are

encountering difficulties moving across borders within our region. South Africans, who should benefit from the five flights a day that take place between Johannesburg and Windhoek, are hindered by the fact that they are required to apply for an entry Visa for every single visit. This is a barrier to business



and ultimately, our aspirations of integration. This is why we have taken a decision that Africans carrying diplomatic passports can come to Namibia without visa requirements. Eventually, we plan to do away with visa requirements for all passports. Only then, will we walk the talk."

On movement of citizens within SADC Countries

"The influence fathers have in the lives of their kids and on society at large is critical to addressing social ills."

Father's Day, 2020

"Our national efforts should focus on fostering a culture of respect for human rights in the present day and the future."

During Human Rights Day, 2023

"Patience is a virtue when you never walk alone."

In congratulating his team, Liverpool FC on winning the Premier League title.

"Africa must maintain unity of purpose and move forward with a sense of urgency towards the upliftment of the African citizen, both materially and ideologically."

Africa Day, 2020

"We should include the youth in leadership structures so that they can be represented and express their opinions on important subjects."

International Youth Day, 2022

"I wish to underscore the importance of unity in our pursuit to enhance the living standards and well-being of our people. When we move forward as a united force and as a coordinated team, we will overcome challenges and accomplish our goals of ensuring that the citizens of SADC, and Africa in general, realize the benefits of socio-economic and political integration."

On unity, living standards and well-being of citizens within SADC Countries.

"One of the objectives of SADC, as stated in Article 5 of the SADC Treaty, is to promote self-sustaining development Based on collective self-reliance, and the interdependence of Member States. To spur interdependence and intra-Africa trade, some SADC Member States signed the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) Agreement. The main objective of the TFTA Agreement is to strengthen and deepen economic integration of the southern and eastern Africa regions, and to harmonise policies and programmes across the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the areas of trade, customs and infrastructure development and movement of goods and people."

On self-sustainability and collective reliance within SADC Countries.

"I note that SADC countries have signed the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which is a flagship project of Agenda 2063, where goods and services will move freely among member states of the African Union (AU), to boost intra-African trade. The Agreement, which will bring together a market of 1.2 billion people with a combined GDP of over \$2.5 trillion, reinforces our commitment to multilateral trading system."

On the integration of trade within African Countries.

"During my tenure as Chairperson, I will strive to ensure that SADC remains focused on the promotion of intra-Africa trade. I plan to work closely with my peers to ensure that our economic growth and industrialisation

agendas are supported by infrastructure development. The aim is to foster the consolidation of synergies that will result in the effective implementation of the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap."

On the integration of trade within SADC Countries.

"We should not falter in our pursuit of industrialization. As a Regional Economic Community, we have contributed meaningfully to the African Union Institutional Reform process. And we shall continue to make our voice heard."

On the integration of trade within SADC Countries.

"Under our chairmanship, we shall leave no stone unturned in working with all of you in promoting economic cooperation and integration within SADC. For we believe in a SADC without underdevelopment, a SADC without exploitation, a SADC without deprivation and a SADC without backwardness."

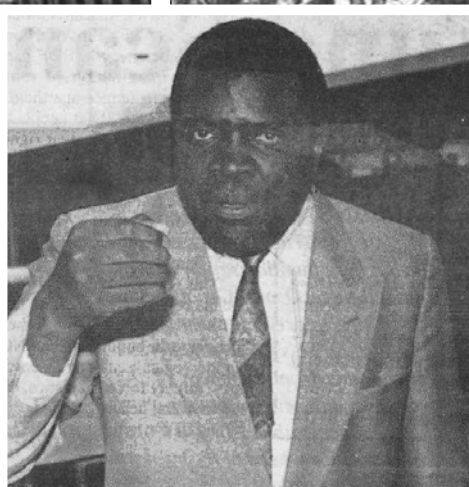
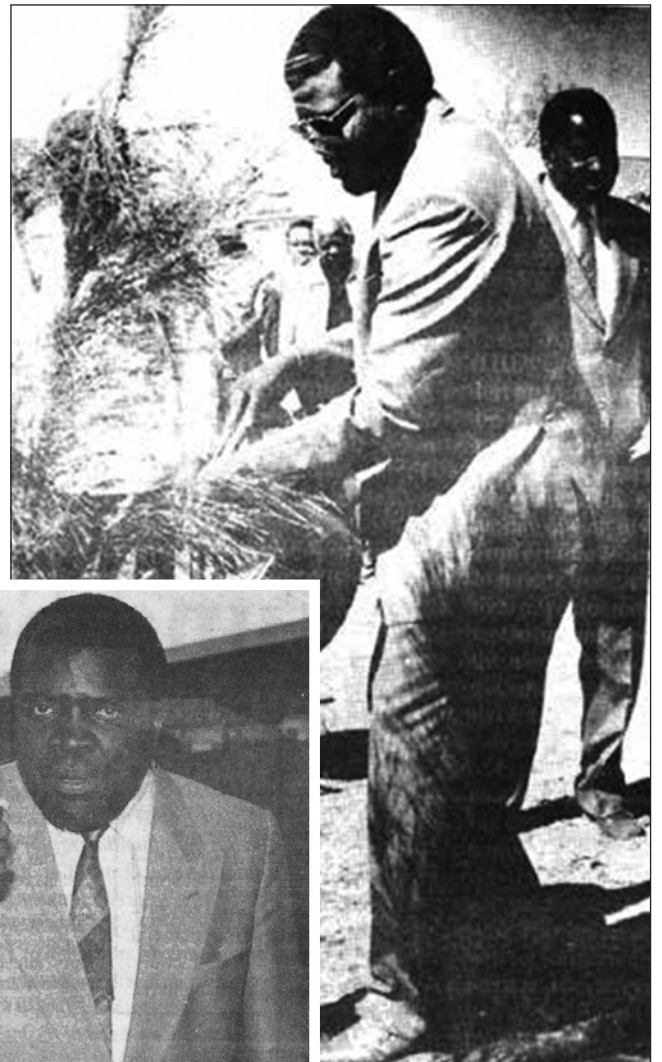
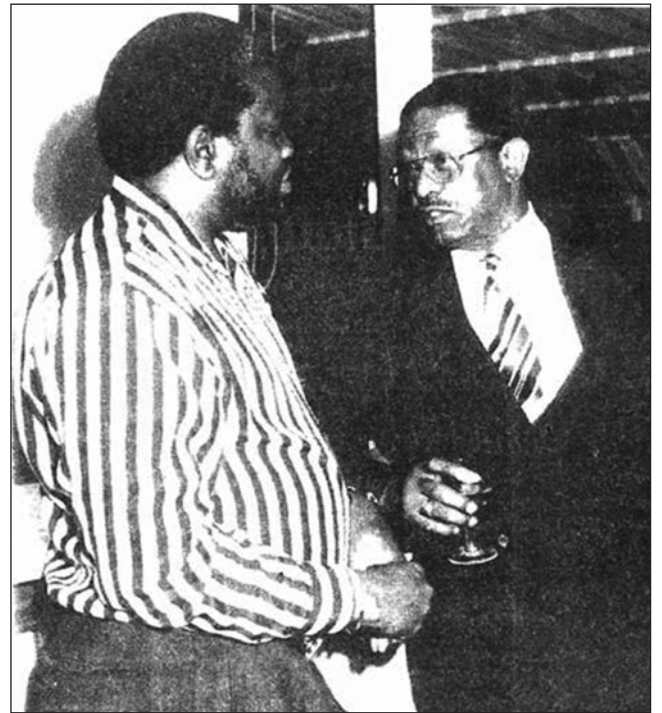
On Namibia's commitment to promoting economic cooperation within SADC Countries.






PHOTO SPEAK

President Geingob during his hey days







We pay homage to
the inspiring actions of
fearless Namibian women
who, in 1959, resisted the
forced removal of people
from the Old Location
to Katutura by the South
African apartheid regime.

I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for your tireless dedication to serving our country. Your unwavering commitment to the betterment of our nation is truly commendable, and I am continually inspired by your leadership.

As our nation mourns the loss of your leadership, we are left with a deep sense of gratitude for the impact you made during your time in the office. Your unwavering dedication and service to our country will be remembered and cherished for generations to come.

While your physical presence may no longer be with us, your spirit, the heartfelt joy you shared with the nation and the principle you stood for will continue to guide us.

May your memory be a blessing, and may we continue to honour your legacy by striving to build a better world for all, just as you did during your tenure as our president.

With heartfelt condolences,
Ms. Vezembouua Kavejata.
College of the Arts student

THE FOUNDING PRIME MINISTER



President Hage Geingob was the founding Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia. He was sworn in on 21 March 1990, served in the position up to 1995, and was reappointed as Prime Minister from 1995 to 2002. He served a total of 12 years in this capacity. As the Prime Minister, President Geingob introduced modern management approaches to the administration of the government. He was, among other things, committed to nature conservation and tourism. The opening of the Ongava Lodge, just south of Etosha in 1990, was brought about by his passion for nature conservation and tourism. That passion he had extended to climate change.

President Geingob was very passionate about climate issues. During the global conference on climate change, in Glasgow, Scotland, President Geingob met with Prince Charles and thanked him for his work to protect the planet. He also shared

the Namibian commitment toward the acceleration of efforts in favour of a safer planet for current and future generations, born and yet unborn. His love for a safe and disaster-free environment was distinctly spelt out in his speech at the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2016. His outspokenness, commitment and effort no doubt made President Geingob one of the outstanding Presidents in Africa and the world.

Having served the government for over 12 years. A cabinet reshuffle in August 2007 brought in Theo Ben Guirirab (Of blessed memory) was the Prime Minister and President Geingob as appointed as the Minister for Regional and Local Government and Housing. In consideration of the new appointment, President Geingob opted to take a break from government and opted to pursue other career options.

In 2003, he was invited to be the

Executive Secretary of the Global Coalition for Africa, an inter-governmental forum that brings together top African policymakers and their partners to build consensus on Africa's priority developmental issues. The organisation's agenda was based on the premise that Africa can grow from within, but to do so Africa needs outside support. President Geingob worked with African continental and regional organisations and Africa's development partners towards conflict resolution in Africa; the promotion of good governance in African states, and the integration of African economies into the global economy.

After two years of absence from government, President Geingob made a stride, and found his way back, slowly but surely, back into the Namibian polity. On 2nd October 2004, while still in Washington working for the Global Coalition for Africa, President Geingob was nominated as a member of SWAPO



parliamentary candidate by the party delegates. He polled 28 out of 60 votes. He left the Global Coalition for Africa, returned to Namibia to participate in the November 2004 parliamentary election, and won a seat.

2007 was a year of fulfilment for President Geingob politically. He became SWAPO's Party Chief Whip in the National Assembly. He also became a member of the SWAPO Politburo, filling one of the two vacancies available, and a few weeks before the party congress, the Politburo named President Geingob as its sole candidate for the position of Vice-President of SWAPO. At the elective congress, on November 29 2007, he was elected without opposition as the Vice-President of the SWAPO Party and was later appointed as Minister of Trade and Industry.

SWAPO Party 2012 congress, re-elected President Geingob as the Vice-President of SWAPO. His ascent to the position of the Party's Vice-President made him the successor of Hifikepunye Pohamba as President of Namibia. Although President Geingob was the sole candidate for the position of Vice-President in 2007, this time, his re-election was not without challenge.

Two other popular candidates, Jerry Ekandjo and Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana challenged President Geingob for the position. President Geingob received 312 votes from the delegates, while Jerry Ekandjo received 220 votes and Pendukeni Iivula-Ithana received 64 votes. On 4th of December 2014 President Hifikepunye Pohamba, the then President of Namibia appointed President Geingob as Prime Minister, the position he rose from to becoming the 3rd President of the Namibian Nation.

President Geingob was a leader who inspired the citizens to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more. He was an embodiment of getting the best out of human potential, to serving humanity to the best of his ability, and ensuring that the poor and the rich, the previously marginalised, Namibians both home and abroad, have their rights respected and their survival not compromised. These were the elements of his style of leadership as the Prime Minister, as a Minister, and as the President of Namibia.

President Geingob's drive to improved the lives of the Namibians could have been born from his journey towards self-actualisation and resiliency.



Some of the Achievements of President Hage Geingob As Minister of Trade and Industry

"In fulfilment of our assigned mandate and in keeping with our fiscal accountability as far as the national budgetary allocation from treasury is concerned, the year under review has witnessed the world economy going through a tumultuous period of time, Namibia continued to maintain its peace and stability, thus contributing to a conducive environment for economic activities to successfully take place. This is as a result of the strong political will, which focused on economic growth, spearheaded by the Ministry of Trade and Industry as the chief custodian of trade and industry in Namibia."

President Hage Geingob reporting as Minister of Trade and Industry in 2011/12.

President Hage Geingob was the Minister of Trade and Industry from

2008 - 2012. During his period in this portfolio, various independent international bodies such as the World Economic Forum Global Competitive Report, and that of the World Bank have consistently given Namibia fair and positive rankings in various economic sectors. However, certain shortcomings were also highlighted in these global reports.

The following were the achievements of President Geingob during his term as the Minister of Trade and Industry.

The Namibian Government endeavoured to create a business-friendly environment with the foresight that such a move would allow the country to become a hotbed for growth and development which will eventually lead toward realising Vision 2030.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry, successfully hosted the Namibia International Investment Forum (NIIF) on 29-30 November 2011, in Windhoek. The NIIF was attended by more than 500 international, regional and local participants, and was hailed by many as the best-ever CBC International Forum.

While, the NIIF was underway, the first-ever "Made in Namibia Expo" took place, concurrently with the International Investment Forum. A total of 134 SMEs from all 13 regions of Namibia and 22 corporate businesses participated at this Expo, which was organised by the Ministry of Trade and Industry in partnership with the Namibian Manufacturing Association (NMA) and the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI).

Continues on page 37



President Hage Geingob was the Minister of Trade and Industry from 2008 - 2012.

Continues from page 36

The Industrial Policy of Namibia was developed, and approved by the Cabinet and Parliament. The policy outlines the broad principles and parameters to guide the country's long-term industrialisation drive and sets among others guidelines for the role of the State in industrialisation as well as the expected role of the stakeholders. In the same vein, the Namibian Investment Law was also approved. The law replaced the former Foreign Investment Act. It addresses domestic investors and black economic empowerment.

The SME Bank was established, with the finalisation of the shareholders agreement and subsequent appointment of members of its Board of Directors.

About 626 SMEs benefitted from the Equipment Aid Scheme programme in the 2011/12 financial year resulting in the creation of 912 jobs. The expenditure for the programme

during the financial year amounted to N\$ 44.2 million. The overall objective of the Equipment Aid Scheme is to reduce the cost of setting up an operation, expansion and output of SMEs through the provision of production equipment and machinery.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry through its implementing agency, the Namibia Development Corporation (NDC), built business premises at Katima Mulilo, Rundu, Okongo, Okalongo and Okakarara.

The business registration process was re-engineered. An in-house computerised system - the Integrated Company Registration System (ICRS), was built, and linked to all Ministry of Trade and Industry regional offices to enhance efficient service delivery.

The decision of the Namibia Competition Commission on the merger of Wal-Mart Incorporated and Massmart Holdings Limited was

approved, subject to some amended conditions. The amended condition "no retrenchment for a period of two years, honouring of existing labour agreements, as well as consultations with the Minister of Trade and Industry, regarding the establishment of a programme of activities for domestic supplier development," formed part of the approval.



About 626 SMEs benefitted from the Equipment Aid Scheme programme in the 2011/12 financial year resulting in the creation of 912 jobs.

"NEW NAMIBIAN HOUSE" ANALOGY

Restoration of Hope in Namibians



Hage Gottfried Geingob was elected President of Namibia by an overwhelming majority. The yearning for a president who would meet the Namibian people's needs was truly reflected in the number of votes that brought him to power. The masses wanted a president that would meet their basic needs, - food, clothing and shelter. They wanted jobs, better housing and good food and wanted a leader who would address these needs with haste. President Geingob polled 87% of the votes cast in the election. By this act, the Namibian people gave him the mandate to lead them to prosperity.

On 21 March 2015, President Geingob was inaugurated as the third President of the Republic of Namibia. He assumed the role of Head of State with an enormous level

of public confidence and a great deal of expectation from the masses. The inauguration occurred at the same time as Namibia's 25th Independence Anniversary. It was full of excitement, jubilation, and joy. Another new dawn had arrived. A new approach to governance was in the making, and President Geingob, coming from a minority group was a sign of national unity and political tolerance which, many African countries are struggling with.

President Hage Geingob's inauguration speech spoke directly to the yearnings of the Namibian people and put hope in the face of the dispirited. His "No Namibian should feel left behind" slogan hit the nail right on the head. The speech of President Geingob committed his government to addressing several priorities during his administration, with the socio-economic gaps that

exist in society as the centre of interest. He declared an "all-out war on poverty and concomitant inequality". And would work towards "catapulting the economy into a new period of faster growth, improved job creation and improved service delivery." To ensure that the administration can successfully address these goals, President Geingob also hinted about upgrading the governance architecture that will ensure that the government can effectively respond to these priorities, and called on the Namibian people to stand together in building the new Namibian House.

"Our vision is clear. We plan to expand and spread the opportunities for growth and prosperity to be enjoyed by all Namibians in all parts of the country, with a specific focus on the disadvantaged sections of our population. We will do so by pursuing policies and strategies to

Continues on page 39

safeguard macroeconomic stability, promote economic diversification and transformation of the Namibian economy to be more inclusive and resilient to internal and external shocks." President Geingob, speaking at his inauguration as President of Namibia.

One important factor to note is, that President Geingob emphasised continuing his predecessors' legacy, the legacy of peace as brought by President Sam Nujoma, stability, and as brought by President Hifikepunye Pohamba. On these two, he promised to continue by building prosperity. It was in this line that President Geingob clearly outlined his priorities, stressing that the main priority for his administration will be, addressing the socio-economic gaps that exist in the Namibian society.

"Therefore, our first priority will be to declare all-out war on poverty and concomitant inequality. Our focal point will be to address inequality, poverty and hunger and that will involve looking at a range of policies and interventionist strategies to tackle this issue" he said. In this regard, he revised the Government structures to better align Ministries to the Government's objectives, which would enhance efficiencies, and make the government more responsive in meeting the goals.

The determination of President Geingob to enhance the quality of life for all Namibian citizens was not mere rhetoric. On April 21 2015, during his State of the Nation Address (SONA), which coincided with the opening of the 6th Parliament, President Geingob made a recommitment to the many promises he made in his inaugural address, this time around, with more specifics to his plans. In that speech, President Hage Geingob kept to his commitment to making the eradication of poverty a national priority. He, at that moment, declared various initiatives, which included an increase in the old age pension, the introduction of a food



bank and the use of a multifaceted approach.

"We will, therefore, tackle poverty from all fronts, through safety nets, access to quality education, and by creating jobs and growing the economy," President Geingob said. He highlighted the renaming of the Labour Ministry to the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Job Creation to serve the people better. The President also elaborated on how he intended to overcome inequalities. He mentioned that the finalisation of the economic empowerment policy framework was long overdue and that consultation on it would resume.

One of the burning issues in the country, that many city dwellers wanted to hear about was access to land and affordable housing. The President reaffirmed his obligation to address the land reform issue and to provide affordable housing to all Namibians. He pinpointed various measures he intended to pursue to accelerate the delivery of serviced land and housing. The introduction of free secondary school education, encouragement of the private sector to do more about skills development and training, and the importance of quality and affordable health services were some of the highlights in the President's State of The Nation Address.

President Geingob did not compromise on the issue of combating corruption. He

encouraged the people to report any instances of corruption to the Anti-Corruption Commission and highlighted the need for public officials to avoid conflicts of interest, and nepotism.

He encouraged members of his government to disclose their assets and set the precedence by announcing that he would disclose his assets through an independent assessment by PWC. In terms of holding elected leaders accountable, the President mentioned that all Ministers and their Deputies would be required "to issue Ministerial Declarations of Intent that will constitute a contract with the public on delivery to which they will be held accountable". His SONA and inaugural speech highlighted the intention of his government to build and maintain a house in which all its residents have a sense of shared identity. "We are determined to build a house that will be a place of peace and refuge for all its children and a house in which no Namibian will be left out." For his policy statement, President Geingob received great applause.

His speech inspired and provided hope for a new era of accountable and responsive governance and service delivery for all Namibians. He announced a renewed focus on improving efficiencies and accountability in government, as well as restructuring the economy to maintain competitiveness while addressing glaring inequities. And

dealing with the reality of poverty in the country. President Geingob was the messiah they had been seeking.

Knowing fully well that much was expected of him by the people, President Geingob set to work on his deliverables. He used 2015 to plan his method of implementation, and in 2016, he started with implementation.

As the first step towards service delivery, he called on members of the SWAPO party expected to serve, to submit their CVs. This was meant to ensure that they were put in the position they could best serve the nation.

He created the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, to fast-track efforts to address poverty, wealth inequality and food insecurity. He rolled out the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), a targeted Action Plan to accelerate development in clearly defined priority areas. Although HPP laid the basis for attaining prosperity in Namibia, the Plan does not replace but complements the long-term goal of the National Development Plans [NDPs] and Vision 2030.

President Geingob took action by increasing the old age pension grant from the paltry payment of N\$600 to N\$1,000 in 2015 and to N\$1,100 in 2016. He created the food bank to reduce food insecurity in the country. The food bank, some people cautioned should not become a burden and should be truly channelled to those in need. He also introduced the Basic Income Grant (BIG) for all Namibians.

The President's slogan of "no one should be left behind" would have been meaningless if the education sector had been overlooked.

The President did well by seeing through the reforms set out by his predecessor on free secondary education. The major challenge, however, was ensuring that learners received high-quality education to enhance their life chances and to fully

We would continue engaging and consulting with stakeholders like farmers, the media, trade unions, youth, women and the private sector. These consultations will go hand in hand with a drive towards implementation and transformation of workable suggestions into actions.

exploit their potential.

Concerning governance, President Geingob made various efforts to ensure that his administration delivered on the promises made to the people. He requested all Ministers to submit their Declarations of Intent to "outline their promises to the public". He held an induction seminar for Cabinet members in his Presidency. The induction focused on key important concepts, thoughts and approaches that would mark the tenure of his Presidency. These included good governance and ethics, poverty eradication, reduction of income disparities, accelerated economic growth, job creation and rapid industrialisation. These also ensured that Performance Agreements (in line with the Declarations) were put in place to monitor the performance of the Ministers.

President Geingob worked hard to ensure he remained a true ambassador of his Namibian House analogy, in which "no Namibian

should feel left out."

And as he promised, the focus of his efforts remained, on mending socio-economic gaps in the Namibian society, particularly on poverty reduction. President Geingob decided to take the bull by the horns and had public engagements and town hall meetings. In the report on the public engagements, the President covered close to 14 thousand kilometres on road and by plane, sat for 93 hours in town hall meetings, listening attentively to participants and thoroughly documenting questions, observations and suggestions.

Over 2,400 questions and ideas from Namibians from all walks of life were received. Pertinent issues raised included drought and water crisis, potential electricity crisis, land delivery and housing, lack of funds for entrepreneurial activity, weak service delivery at the local level and some others.

One of the virtues of President Geingob was that he believed in consultation, in working together to reach a common goal, which fitted well into his tenets of ensuring that everybody participated in building the Namibian house.

One good example was his effort at solving the land and housing problems. The president through a consultative approach had a meeting with members of the Affirmative Repositioning movement, a group of young people agitating for government to repossess the land from the whites without compensation. President Geingob was also a social media doyen who used social media to engage with the masses on surreal issues. He was on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

"We will continue engaging and consulting with stakeholders like farmers, the media, trade unions, youth, women and the private sector. These consultations will go hand in hand with a drive towards implementation and transformation

President Hage Gottfried Geingob

Namibia's 3rd President

THERE were two presidents before President Hage Geingob. President Shafishuna Nujoma the first President of Namibia. And President Hifikepunye Pohamba, the second President. President Pohamba handed the reigns of power to President Geingob in 2015. All the previous presidents served two terms in office. President Geingob was on the second lap of his two terms when he departed.

President Geingob was Namibia's 3rd President. He was elected into office in 2015 with a landslide victory of about 87% of the votes cast. Over 1.2 million people were registered to vote. As an incoming president, President Geingob was faced with the issues of housing and land. A greater number of the 2.3 million Namibians looked up to his administration to solve the urban housing and land problems that were then trending in the country.

During his election campaign, President Geingob promised that his government would spend N\$45 billion on building 185,000 houses.

The SWAPO 2014 manifesto sets out the party's vision for Namibia for the next five years; "to further expand and spread the opportunities for growth and prosperity to be enjoyed by all Namibians in all parts of the country, with a specific focus on disadvantaged sections of the population."

Former President Hifikepunye Pohamba mentioned during the launch of the party manifesto in 2014. "Under the SWAPO Party Government, our country has remained united. We have enjoyed peace and stability.

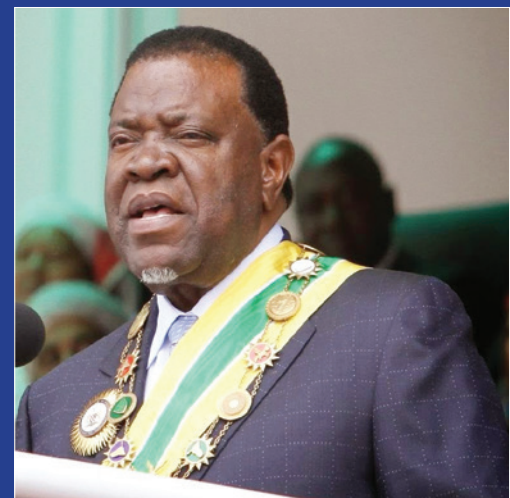
We have promoted democracy, tolerance and good

governance. We have remained determined to spare no effort and to allocate resources to ensure that our people have access to basic amenities, such as quality healthcare, education, land, and housing. This is the basis of a sustainable and functioning democracy, based on fundamental values, norms, culture, traditions and values of Namibians."

President Geingob's government, in his 100 days of office, among others and through government structures such as the presidency dealt with the status and monthly grants of the veterans, integrated the marginalised communities into the mainstream economy, established a garden in Namapan in Tsumkwe Constituency which led to the employment of 22 casual workers, constructed the kandjira Craft Centre in Ovitoro in Omatoko Constituency, to meet the needs of people with disabilities and completed the construction of phase one of the National Youth Service project at Rietfontein. The distribution of bags of maize meal and tins of fish to the regions, and the training and assessment conducted on nutrition and food security in some regions are some of the achievements of the president in his 100 days of office.



President Hage Geingob is Namibia's 3rd President. He was elected into office in 2015 with a landslide victory of about 87% of the votes cast. Over 1.2 million people were registered to vote.



PRESIDENT HAGE GEINGOB'S ADMINISTRATION ACHIEVEMENTS IN HIS 100 DAYS IN OFFICE

When President Geingob came to power, one of his objectives was to have a government that is working, free of corruption and speaks to the yearning of the masses.





The President had his cabinet members declare their assets, and sign performance agreements.

- Under the Resettlement Support Programme, a total of 20 households from the San community in Gam were relocated to Ondera Yahorua to do animal husbandry and gardening. Water, tents and ongoing food supplies were provided for them.
- The Namibia Poverty Mapping and Namibia Index of Multiple Deprivation report to allow, inter alia, specific targeted development interventions were published.
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework to support and improve performance and accountability in service delivery to citizens was drafted

Cooperation with Development Partners

- The Namibian-German Special Initiative Programme supported by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany resulted in the construction of the water infrastructure project for the farmers in Nissan & Kleinhuis in the Outjo constituency of the Kunene region.
- The National Indicative Programme for grant support amounting to Euros 68 million for the period 2015-2020, was signed with the European Union and focused on education and skills, agriculture and building capacity in civil society organisations.
- Bilateral development cooperation between the GRN and Sweden transformed into trade cooperation, formulation of budget execution plans and policy development guidelines. The National Execution Plan was developed to guide O/M/As to comply with identified criteria and procedures for appraisal of development projects and programmes requiring funds from the Development Budget. Policy development guidelines were developed outlining what a policy should consist of. Its implementation action plan spells out the roles and responsibilities of each role player in ensuring GRN policies are harmonised and implemented.
- The cabinet held deliberative and decision-making meetings. The PM chairs the deliberative cabinet meeting, while decision-making cabinet meetings are chaired by the President. Some of the main issues approved by the Cabinet include:
 - The Public Enterprises Bill, Financial Services Adjudicator Bill, Namibia Risks Insurance Association Bill, Micro-lending Bill, Namibia Maritime Authority Bill, National Fishing Corporation of Namibia
 - Bill, Marine Resources Amendment Bill, Namibia Development Agency Bill and Civil Aviation Bill.
 - Other initiatives include alignment of strategic plans of O/M/As to Swapo Party manifesto, measures to accelerate Urban and Agricultural
 - Land Reform Programme, the review of National Agricultural Policy, drought mitigation measures, foot and mouth disease control, sales and marketing agreement between government and De Beers Societe Anonyme, as well as Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East Africa Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA).

- The President had his cabinet members declare their assets, and sign performance agreements.
- Also accomplished was the subscription of shares in international development finance institutions (NORAD and ADB), the formula for State funding of political parties and the appointment of board members of various developmental institutions, review of the New Equitable Economic Empowerment Framework (NEEEF), creation of an enabling policy environment for the public service, and support for the effective implementation of such policies, by, among others, re-adjusting and re-organising of offices, ministries and agencies as per the announcement by the President.
- The Office of the Vice President; the Ministry of Public Enterprises; the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture; the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation; the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service; as well as the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare were created. The final round of appeals for regrading was implemented.
- Salary negotiations for improved benefits with the recognised trade unions.
- The functions of the San, Ovatie and Ovatjiba programme and Disability Advisory Unit were transferred to the Office of the Vice President. The food bank project was transferred to the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare.
- Amendments to the Public Service Act 13 of 1995 were done, incorporating among others, the compulsory declaration of interest by Public Servants, and institutionalise Performance Management, to improve service delivery, ensure value for money and instil ethical practices in the public service.
- When President Geingob came to power, one of his objectives was to have a government that was working, free of corruption and that speaks to the yearning of the masses. To this end, the President had his cabinet members declare their assets, and sign performance agreements. And within 100 days of the office of President Geingob, Government Agencies in the country reported the following activities.

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATIONS

- President Hage G. Geingob took a working visit to Angola, and a courtesy visit to President Jacob Zuma of South Africa.
- President Geingob attended the inauguration of Nigeria's President, Gen. Mohammad Buhari. While in Nigeria, the President met with the Executive Governor of Lagos State and with Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote.

- President Geingob visited Mali and also had a meeting with General Chang Wanquan China's State Councilor and Minister of Defence.
- Special Envoy of Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, and Special Envoy of Mr. Salva Kiir, President of the Republic of South Sudan paid a courtesy call to President Geingob.
- Agreements signed: The Namibian Government and the Angolan Government signed an MOU on the construction of bridges across the Okavango River; an MOU with the Government of South Africa on the implementation of drought relief assistance offered by the latter, and an extension on the establishment of a China Space Tracking, Telemetry and Command (TTC) station in Namibia.
- A draft Protocol on the export of Namibian beef to China was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.
- Establishment of Diplomatic Relations: Continuous progress was been made in establishing Diplomatic relations between Namibia and Saudi Arabia.
- Joint Commissions of Cooperation: H.E. Yuri Trutnev, Deputy Prime Minister and Special Representative of and Plenipotentiary of the President of the Russian Federation paid a working visit to Namibia, in preparation for the Namibian- Russian Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation.
- Policy Implementation: Namibia and Angola engaged in diplomatic discussions to tackle the Foot and Mouth Disease.
- Meetings: The Tripartite (COMESA-EAC-SADC) Summit and Launch of the Tripartite Free Trade Area. The Ministry also participated in the First Joint SADC



Meeting for Ministers Responsible for Disaster Risk Management.

- President Geingob participated in the 25th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Namibia hosted the African Union Peace and Security Council (PCS) retreat in Swakopmund. Attended the



December 2023 - President Geingob(right) with Vice President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and Minister of Environment, Forestry, and Tourism attending COP28 (Climate Change Conference) in Dubai

60th Asian-African Conference and 10th Anniversary of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) Africa Caribbean Pacific- European Union (ACP/EU): Agreement was reached between the ACP and EU on the Namibian National Indicative Plan (NIP) which was signed.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

- Mobilised a medical brigade from private and state sectors to volunteer their free time to provide medical services in remote areas to help reduce the waiting list for operations and special services.
- • Drafted a conceptual framework on the refining of institutional frameworks for the delivery of specialised services, specifically to address cancer diagnosis, treatment and management.
- • Medical doctors sent for specialisation in Zimbabwe and South Africa to help increase the number of specialists in the country.

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION

- A Wage Order setting minimum wages and other conditions of employment for domestic workers took effect on 1 April 2015.
- The 5th Employment Equity Commission was appointed by the Minister of Labour for a three-year term which commenced from 1 April 2015 and the Commissioners underwent induction training. The Chairperson of the Social Security Commission was also appointed.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

- The renovation of the asylum seekers' centre in Katima Mulilo was completed.
- The successful turnaround strategy in Windhoek was being escalated to all regions and border posts.
- The data network communication was established in =Omaruru, and upgraded in the Okahandja sub-regional office, and the visa permit electronic stickers were finalised.
- 2,400 former Angolan refugees were integrated into Namibia and World Refugee Day was commemorated at Osire Refugee Camp. A meeting on the 988 Namibian refugees in Dukwe Botswana was held in Francistown.
- Reduction in the waiting period for travel documents, as well as issuance of visas from 10 days to less than 2 days; employment permit issuance has significantly reduced to a 30-day waiting period. An SMS system was introduced to confirm the current status of applications.
- The automation of the alien control system's pilot project was extended to Namibia's diplomatic missions, such as Pretoria, Beijing, and Berlin. The automation of the citizenship system was signed.
- Training of stakeholders on the Essentials of Migration Management workshop in consultation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was conducted.





- The Case Management System to track and trace application forms, as well as to verify the authenticity of every application form submitted to the Ministry was developed and integrated with the National Population Registration System.
- 30,000 marriage records in the 80s and 90s were retrieved using the Automation Project System, whose primary purpose is to digitise all historical records (births, deaths and marriages).

MINISTRY OF SPORT, YOUTH AND NATIONAL SERVICE

- Paralympics: The Nedbank Disability championship saw the country scooping 37 medals; 30 gold, 4 silver, and 3 bronze.
- Namibia School Sports Union: 50 athletes participated in the COSANA Athletics Competition in Lesotho, and brought home 58 medals; 17 gold, 17 silver and 24 bronze. One athlete qualified for the World Youth Games.
- Athletics: The 2nd Youth Athletics Championship was held in Mauritius, and one gold medal was won in the 400 meters. In the Southern Senior Regional Athletics Championship, Namibia won 5 gold medals.
- Football: The Brave Warriors won the 2015 edition of the COSAFA Cup which was held in South Africa
- Youth Training: 38 unemployed youth were offered field guide training through cooperation between the Directorate of Youth Development, UNDP and Wilderness Safari. And 15 Youth Officers were trained in various aspects of Gender related issues.

- 26 Young offenders from various regions were rehabilitated and provided with life skills training as ordered by the courts.
- N\$ 3,800,000 was disbursed as loans to the youth for projects through the Namibia Youth Credit Scheme.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

- The Namibian Defence Force hosted the Minister of Defence of China, ambassadors, and High Commissioners to consolidate bilateral cooperation.
- Attended meetings of the AU Specialised Technical Committee on Defence, Safety and Security in Zimbabwe and the AU Summit in South Africa.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

- Tabled the Public Enterprises Amendment Bill in Parliament. Embarked on gathering information from all Public Enterprises to compile a management system database; 66 out of 89 provided the requested information.
- The terms of reference of the Corporate Advisory Reform Unit were finalised and approved by the Tender Board. And a reward system for performing public enterprises was put in place.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

The following short and medium-term measures to counter poaching were put in place:

- Ground presence and patrols by the Namibian Police force in Etosha, Bwabwata and Palmwag areas; intensification of aerial patrols of the affected areas through the Namibian Police and Defence Force; secondment of staff members from other National Parks to the worst affected areas; Rhino dehorning operations; construction and electrification of the elephant and predator-proof fence in Etosha; submission of the new proposed structure of Anti-Poaching Unit to the Public Service Commission; review of white rhino species management plan and development of a black rhino species management plan; and the reduction of poaching and the arrest of perpetrators.
- Final consultative workshops on the revision of the Environmental Impact Regulations and Development of Assessment, under the Environmental Management Act of 2007, as well as on the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill were held.

Expansion of Tourism and increased Community Benefaction

- 82 conservancies were registered in Namibia benefiting more than 250,000 rural people.
- Two concessions to develop and operate accommodation facilities in Mubumu National Park and Nkasa Rupara were awarded to adjacent conservancies. The five-year contract to two trophy hunting concessions in Bwabwata National Park was also extended to the Kyramacan Community Association.
- Game counts in the southern and north-western conservancies were successfully conducted and the consolidated data was released.
- The first-ever Namibia Sustainable Development Awards, were held to reward outstanding conservation practices at the community level. N\$100,000 was awarded to Ncumcara Community Forest and N\$50,000 to Okango Community Forest.

Improved Waste Management

Various strategic programme concepts were drafted to tackle waste management issues such as:

- A tidy town competition which is aimed at encouraging local authorities to improve the management of waste and create awareness in communities; stakeholders consultation on the coordination of environmentally sound waste management and administration; awareness-raising among key stakeholders and partners for the effective implementation of the Environmental Management Act.
- Implementation of National strategies on Climate change, Biodiversity and Desertification
- As part of the first 14 countries in the world to be involved in a pilot project aiming at Land Degradation Neutrality, a field assessment of pilot sites was conducted.

Finalisation of key pieces of Legislation

- A gaming and Entertainment Bill workshop with the legal drafters was conducted.

MINISTRY OF GENDER EQUALITY AND CHILD WELFARE

- A cluster meeting for the operationalisation of the National Gender Policy Coordination Mechanism was held.
- Participated in the Gender Mainstreaming Seminar on, governance, peace and security for Ministry of Defence force Leadership and management to deepen its understanding of an international outlook.
- Embarked on sensitisation of gender and related laws in various regions to combat gender-based violence and strengthening of the social protection system for children.
- The Child Care and Protection Bill was promulgated by Parliament and gazetted. Also submitted the instructions towards the accession to the Hague Convention in respect of children's rights.

PRESIDENT: HAGE GOTTFRIED GEINGOB

- Organised the Commemoration of the Day of the African Child in all 14 regions, with the main event celebrated at Groot Aub, Khomas Region.

NATIONAL COUNCIL

- The following bills were confirmed, some with amendments: Appropriation Bill; University of Science and Technology Bill; Namibian Citizenship (second) Special Conferment Bill; and Veterans Amendment Bill.
- The Standing Committee on Rural Development's report to establish a constituency development fund was adopted.
- A report on the lack of national documents for residents of Gam and Eiseb, repatriated from Botswana, was tabled recommending expediting the process of issuing national documents. The report was forwarded to the Ministries of Home Affairs and Immigration and International Relations and Cooperation for implementation.
- The 3rd Rural Women's Parliament, focusing on gender-based violence and the importance of the Rural Development Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security was held.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

- The proposed structures for the Directorates Law Reform and Legislative Drafting were submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister for consideration.

President Geingob, more of an elder statesman than a politician



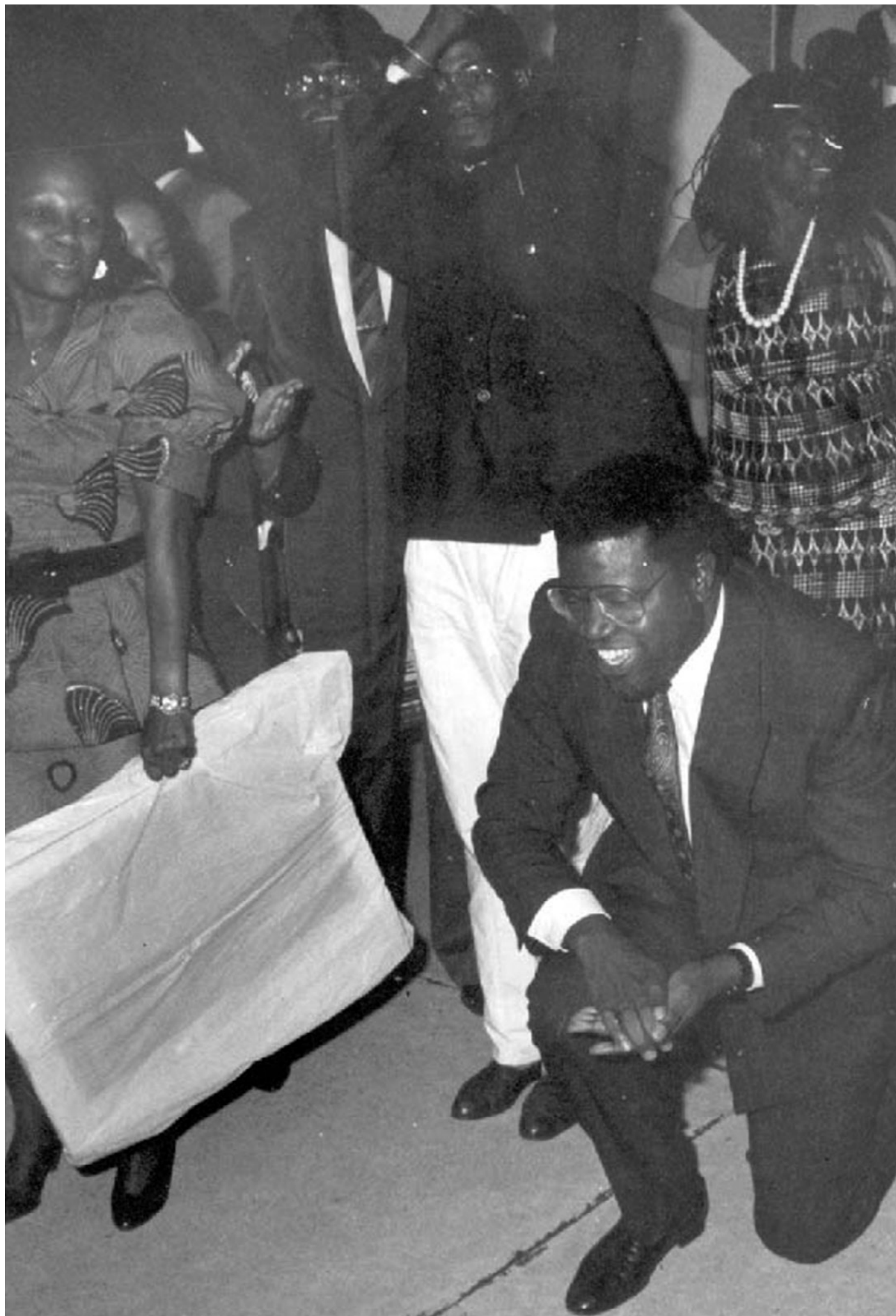
Merriam-Webster describes a statesman as a person engaged in fixing the policies and conducting the affairs of a government especially. He is one having unusual wisdom and skill in such matters. A politician on the other hand is defined by Merriam-Webster as a person engaged in party politics as a profession.

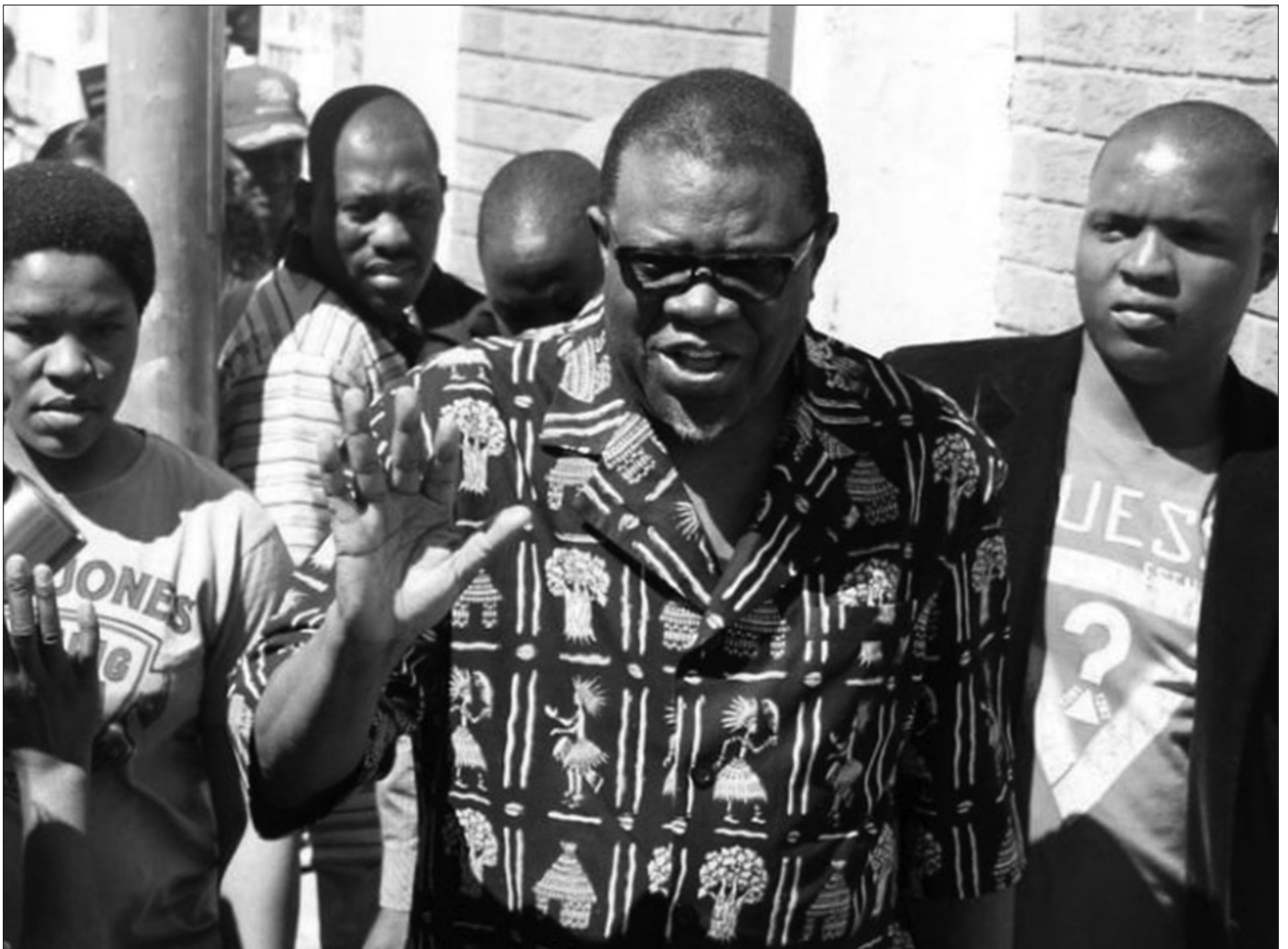
Going by these descriptions, President Geingob was more of a statesman than a politician. The wisdom, skill, and vision he had in conducting the affairs of the country, dealing with public issues and running the government put him in the category of the elder statesmen before him. It is not an overstatement to say that President Geingob does things for the common good. When he came to power, his government put up social safety nets that have gone a long way in mitigating hunger and poverty among vulnerable households. Such safety nets included the food bank, drought relief, old age social grants, grants

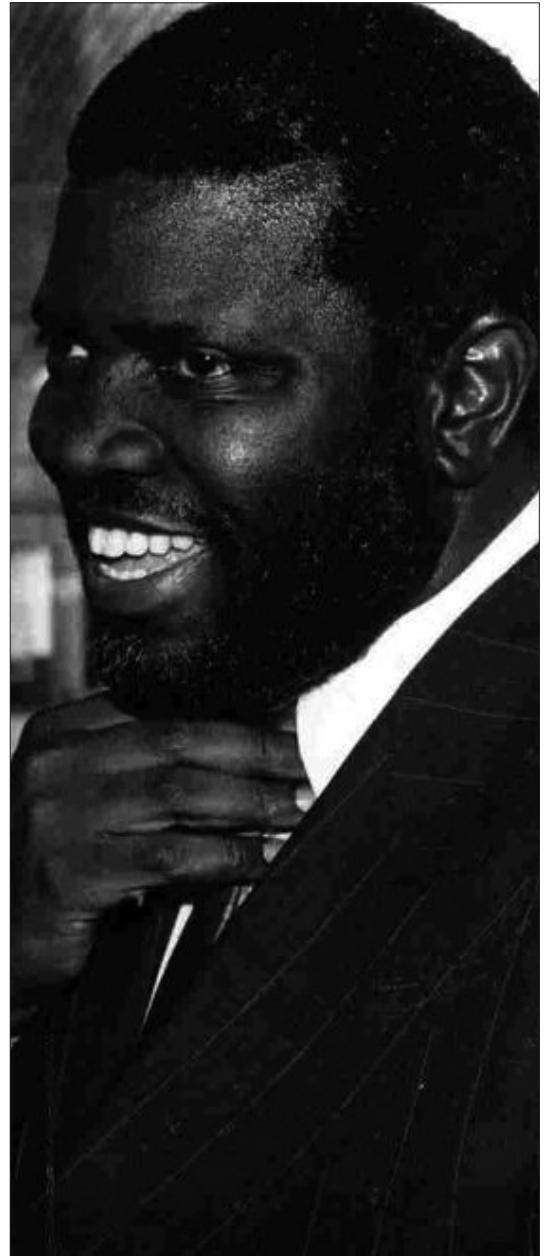
to previously marginalised communities, grants to people with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children, as well as the school feeding programme. In his State of the Nation (SONA) address in April 2022, President Geingob revealed that on average, his government spent a whopping amount of more than N\$412 million per month on social safety nets and an additional N\$160 million on drought relief per annum.

The SONA address not only gave an account of the social safety nets but also announced the increase on the children's disability grant which became five times the payment that was. The increase commenced in the 2023 financial year.

As currently estimated, 22% of the total population benefits from the government grant in one form or another. This translates to about 500,000 individuals, excluding the number of secondary beneficiaries per household.







PRESIDENT GEINGOB, A TECHNOCRAT WHO BELIEVES IN MERITOCRACY



Technocrats are people with technical expertise and background. They are selected for leadership positions based on their relevant skills and proven performance. In like manner, Meritocracy is a system in which individual people are selected based on talent, effort, and achievement.

President Hage Geingob was a technocrat and a meritocrat. He was one of those rare administrators of note who believed every problem has a solution if a methodical approach is applied. He believed in systems, institutions and processes, and considered technocrat government as necessary for a country to function properly. Based on the above, President Geingob assigned people based on merit. It is a fact that appointees to his government were considered on merit.

Understanding how to deal with a situation or problem facing the country and dealing with it correctly has nothing to do with popularity or with the number of votes garnered in an election. It has all to do with knowledge of the situation or the problem and having the skill to deal with it. It has to do with being able to judge, interpret and make an informed choice



President Geingob believed that in our democracy, our political leaders should be knowledgeable and have the required skills in their areas of leadership and operation

from the information available.

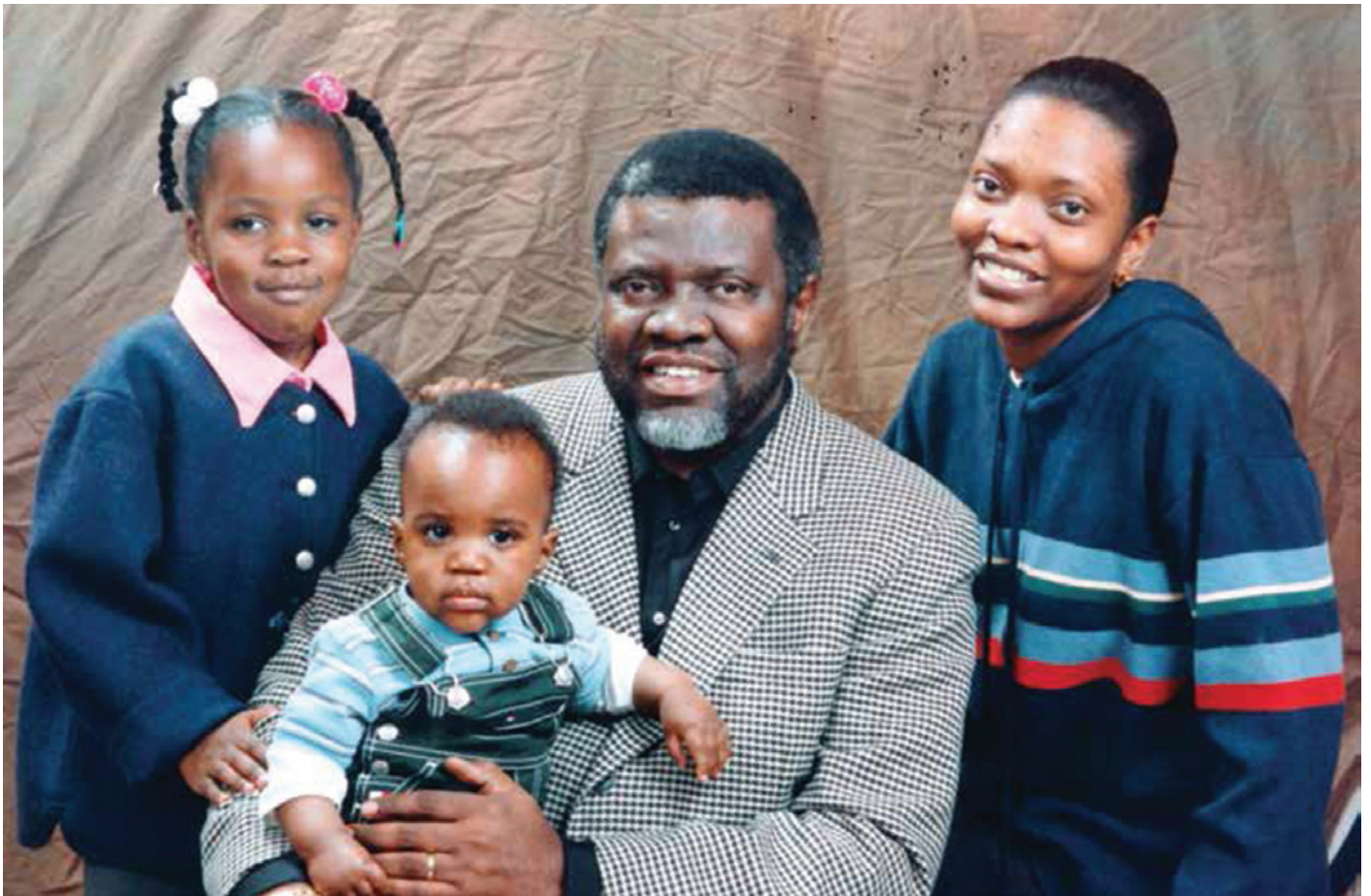
President Geingob believed that in our democracy, our political leaders should be knowledgeable and have the required skills in their areas of leadership and operation. It was therefore unsurprising when President Geingob requested the qualifications of all those he appointed to decision-making power. And based on the skills they possess, he appointed them to where they would best serve the nation.

President Geingob took a very important step because Namibia needs leaders who can make good moral decisions with the public's interest in focus. Dynamic leaders who have a basic understanding of the different options available with the benefits and consequences.

While it is a recognisable fact that those aspiring for top leadership positions should have leadership qualities, it is also a recognisable fact that they must possess the expertise to deal with issues that may arise under their leadership.



FAMILY



"President Geingob has five biological children (three girls and two boys) and several adopted ones. His first son, Mangeliso lives in the US."

YMAN

PRESIDENT Geingob met his first wife, Priscilla Charlene Nilonga Geingos a.k.a Aunt Patty when he was in the United States of America. He was working at the UN in New York while Priscilla was working at the circulation desk of the UN library. Priscilla was a grassroots community activist, and a member of the civil rights group in New York during the sixties and seventies.

As soon as she met President Geingob she not only fell in love with him but also with the struggle for the independence of Namibia. President Geingob and Priscilla later moved in together. They offered their private

home to be used as the first SWAPO office in New York as well as to host SWAPO and SWANU comrades and any other Namibian who was dedicated to the liberation of the country. Priscilla became part of the awareness campaign to educate African Americans, people of the Caribbean and African descent on the plight of the Namibian nation and its people.

The couple left the United States, When President Geingob was appointed Director of the United Nations Institute of Namibia and Priscilla became a member of the SWAPO Women's Council. She was also at the front line. The fact that she

was the wife of a leader was no reason to prevent her from serving on the frontline like every other Namibian soldier or freedom fighter did.

President Geingob divorced his first wife for what could be termed as normal reasons. Despite the divorce, the two maintained a cordial relationship. President Geingob and Priscilla's relationship was blessed with one daughter, Nangula Geingos. Nangula was about nine years old when her parents divorced.

President Geingob has five biological children (three girls and two boys) and several adopted ones. His first son, Mangeliso, lives in the US. He

Continues on page 56



President Geingob had a strong bond with his children



Continues from page 55

had Mangeliso when he was studying in Philadelphia.

Nangula is the second child followed by Oshoveli who lives in Maryland in the US as well. Dangos is the fourth born, while Hage Junior is the last of his biological children.

President Geingob married his second wife, Loini Geingos in 1993. The marriage ended in divorce 15 years later. For nearly seven years He remained single, carrying out his duty as a national leader. He once jokingly said that the constitution did not demand him to be married to qualify as a national leader but rather demanded him to do his work conscientiously as required by the nation. On February 14, 2015, St Valentine's Day, President



On February 14, 2015,
St Valentine's Day,
President Geingob
married Monica
Kalondo at a private
wedding ceremony in
Windhoek.

Geingob married Monica Kalondo at a private wedding ceremony in Windhoek.

President Geingob's children regard him as a good, dotting father. He multi-tasks as a father and as a national leader. His children admire him as

a father full of immense love for his children. He nurses the guilt of being unable to spend as much time with his children as he would have wanted because of his work commitments. Despite his children being grown-ups and living their separate lives, He remained a very caring and protective father.

President Geingob has a strong bond with his children. In 2014, during the SWAPO elective congress at Safari Hotel, his first daughter Nangula was around the venue to provide moral support to her father despite not being a delegate. She waited the whole night for the results to be announced pacing up and down the corridors of the venue. As soon as He was declared the winner, President Geingob rushed out of the venue with his supporters, looked for his daughter, and the two celebrated together.

One of the virtues of President Geingob was his honesty about his family life. He confessed that he had made mistakes

Continues on page 57



Continues from page 56

as a husband. He also realised that he had reached a point where he had matured enough to be at peace with himself and be a good husband as well.

President Geingob's children were happy that their father got married again. They believed that a national leader like him without a soulmate is open to lots of temptations from women with different agendas, hence they strongly believed that having a wife and a woman like Monica will make a huge positive difference in their father's life. "Monica is calm while President Geingob is energetic, so they complement each other." Nangula said in an interview. President Geingob went through a lot of setbacks

Despite his children being grown-ups and living their separate lives, President Geingob remained a very caring and protective father.

politically and in his private life. He is a national leader and also the head of



his household so his children always looked up to him. After a cabinet reshuffle that resulted in a perceived demotion for President Geingob as he was moved from being the Prime-Minister to a Minister, he reassured his children that this minor setback would not determine his destiny. He remained strong and that made his children strong too.

Yes, While President Geingob was at the State House, he continued to be a loving grandfather and father to his family.

A NATIONAL LEADER, HEAD OF HIS HOUSEHOLD, AND A ROLE MODEL TO HIS CHILDREN.





SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020–2030

October 2020



Policy Direction As SADC Chairperson

THE SADC was chaired by President Geingob from August 2018 to August 2019. He took over the mantle of leadership from President Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa during the 38th Ordinary Summit in Windhoek. President Geingob was succeeded by then Tanzanian President John Pombe Magufuli, President of Tanzania a year later. President Magufuli has since passed on. He died on 17 March 2021.

President Geingob's tenure of office as SADC Chairperson was at a time when the region was facing several of challenges, many of which are political. Political issues aside, President Geingob's tenure was also confronted with natural disasters, Covid-19, and Cyclone Idah that ravaged Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.

SADC's objectives are to achieve development, peace and security, and economic growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the people of Southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged through regional integration built on democratic principles and equitable and sustainable development. Like every other SADC Chairperson before him, President Geingob's mandate was to oversee the highest level of the governance structure of SADC. Among others, he had the overall mandate of providing policy direction, and controlling the functions of SADC.

On his assumption to leadership on 17 August 2018, President Geingob stated some of the policies he intended to implement, some of which were continuation of what his predecessor had been working on. One of President Geingob's



The very topical election in the DRC in 2018, which resulted in a peaceful transfer of power since DRC attained independence in 1960, the signing of a pledge by the Mozambique government and the opposition party RENAMO to conduct peaceful elections in 2019, Madagascar's election in December 2018, were some of the political challenges that President Hage dealt with during his tenure as SADC Chairperson.

policies was to accelerate progress in terms of the empowerment of women. Before becoming the SADC Chairperson, President Geingob had always been at the forefront of the attainment of gender equality and equity in Namibia. His campaign against the maltreatment, abuse and gender disparities against

women and girls was glaring and uncompromising. It was evident by no means that in Namibia, and as outlined in the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, President Geingob aimed at encouraging the harmonisation of gender-responsive legislation, policies, programmes and projects.

Continues on page 61



Continues from page 60

Another policy centred on his aspirations for an industrialised region. His acceptance speech as SADC Chairperson did not stop short of his vision for an industrialised region.

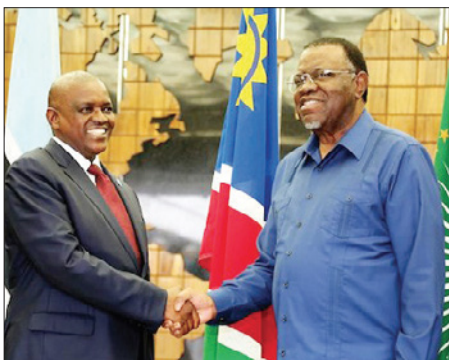
To this end, President Geingob called on all member states' governments, to ensure governance that would facilitate the process of an industrialised region. Considering the fact that the aspirations of industrialisation and subsequent sustainable development cannot be pursued without the existence of robust governance architectures within the respective countries, he challenged his colleagues to adopt a modern approach to governance, the one that is characterised by robust processes, systems and institutions that are no longer centred on personalities.

Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development

SADC has made tremendous significant progress in the area of governance. The outstanding work of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) in entrenching democracy in the region, the peaceful transition of power in SADC countries, and the successes ushered by the era of

independence were what President Geingob promised to build on during his leadership as SADC Chairperson. His reassuring words were that Namibia as the holder of the chairmanship will ensure that SADC pulls together in the same direction, and work harder in order to succeed in its agenda of development, economic cooperation and regional integration.

The theme for the 38th Summit is: "Promoting Infrastructure Development and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development," which aimed at taking forward the SADC industrialisation agenda while focusing on infrastructure development, youth empowerment and sizeable development.



The Milestone as families, friends and the nation mourns President Geingob



The year 2015

In 2015, when he became the President, President Geingob availed information concerning his health status, which was certified by his medical team as a clean bill of health.

June 2023

President Geingob underwent an aortic operation, which the president communicated to the Namibian public accordingly.

19 January 2024

President Geingob informed the Namibian people about the cancerous cells that had been detected by his medical team following a biopsy examination. The President also communicated that he would commence immediate medical treatment on advice from the medical team.

31 January 2024

The presidency informed the Namibian public that President Geingob returned from the United States

of America and was at a hospital in Windhoek undergoing treatment.

Sunday, February 4, 2024

President Gottfried Hage Geingob died on Sunday, February 4, 2024, with his wife and his children by his side. He died at the age of 82.

The Namibian nation woke up to the sad news

It is with utmost sadness that the President of the Republic of Namibia has passed on. The Namibian nation has lost a distinguished servant of the people, a liberation struggle icon, the chief architect of our constitution and the pillar of the Namibian house. A nation has lost a people's person who was dear to all.

Message of Condolence

A wave of condolences has been sweeping on from across the globe. National and international leaders have been extending their heartfelt tributes to the former First Lady Monica Geingos, the Geingob family and the Namibia nation at large.



SOCIAL MEDIA QUOTES

X - Twitter

"Death comes too soon, Comrade President Hage Geingob. We laughed together & even traded verbal blows more than 40 years we've known each other. But your larger-than-life presence, commitment to democracy, peace and press freedom will not be forgotten. A Luta Continua!"

"Your sense of humour will not resonate with me if it's passing our President. He was a father, grandfather, husband, uncle and friend before he was President."

Facebok

"Year of expectation, he said. But surely, the nation didn't expect this."

"President for the youth and the elderly. Rest well!"

"The President with humour and lively energy has gone, RIP"

"He was not just a President but a dancer, comedian and a Man with a Swagg."

Instagram

"It will be difficult to replace him, He was a man of principles and transparency."

"Go well sir...you're a pillow , a hero, an undisputed leader and a true friend."

