

**THE 25TH SESSION OF THE NAMIBIA-ZAMBIA JOINT
PERMANENT COMMISSION ON DEFENCE AND
SECURITY HELD FROM 29 JULY TO 2 AUGUST, 2024 IN
SWAKOPMUND, NAMIBIA**

PRESS RELEASE

1. In fulfilment of the agreement between the Republics of Namibia and Zambia relating to co-operation on matters of Defence and Security, the Namibian Government hosted the 25th Session of the Namibia-Zambia Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security, from 29 July to 2 August 2024 in Swakopmund, Namibia.
2. The Namibian delegation was led by Honourable Frans KAPOFI, MP, Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs, and included Hon Calle SCHLETTWEIN, MP, Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform; Honourable Pohamba SHIFETA, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism; Hon. Lucia WITBOOI, MP, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security; His Excellency Mr. Haindongo R. SIYAVE, High Commissioner of the Republic of Namibia to the

Republic of Zambia; Dr. Wilhelmine Iyaloo SHIVUTE, Executive Director in the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs, who was also Chairperson of the Officials' meeting, as well as other senior Government officials.

3. The Zambian delegation to this Session was led by Honourable Ambrose Lwiji LUFUMA, MP, Minister of Defence, and included Honourable Jacob Jack MWIIMBU, SC., MP, Minister of Home Affairs and Internal Security; Mr. Norman CHIPAKUPAKU, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, who was also co-Chairperson of the Officials' meeting, and Mr. Josephs Rikki AKAFUMBA, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security, as well as other senior Government officials.
4. The Commission deliberated on bilateral, as well as regional and global issues of interest to both the Republics of Namibia and Zambia. In doing so, the Commission reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring that the defence and security interests of the two (2) countries were secured and promoted.
5. On bilateral matters, the Commission expressed sadness at the demise of His Excellency Dr. Hage Gottfried GEINGOB, the

late President of the Republic of Namibia, who died on 4 February, 2024. In reminiscing on the regrettable development, the Zambian delegation extended its condolences to the Government and the People of the Republic of Namibia, while the Namibian delegation thanked the Government and the People of the Republic of Zambia for the support rendered during the State Funeral.

6. Meanwhile, the Zambian delegation commended the Government and the People of the Republic of Namibia for the smooth transition of power, which culminated in His Excellency Mr. Nangolo MBUMBA, President of the Republic of Namibia, ascending to highest office until 21 March 2025. In the same vein, the Commission commended His Excellency Mr. Nangolo MBUMBA and His Excellency Mr. Hakainde HICHILEMA, Presidents of the Republics of Namibia and Zambia, for their exemplary leadership and dedication to building on the legacy of the Founding Fathers for the benefit of the two (2) nations.
7. In the same vein, the two (2) delegations exchanged congratulatory messages for successfully commemorating their respective Independence Day anniversary celebrations,

with Zambia having celebrated fifty-nine (59) years of independence, while Namibia commemorated thirty-four (34) years of independence.

8. In discussing substantive Defence and Security matters, the Commission took note of the various milestones achieved in securing the two (2) Republics over the years and, in particular, since its last Session. The Commission, however, noted, with concern, that cases of cross-border crimes had continued to be monitored. In the main, it was observed that smuggling of essential goods, illegal fishing, illegal timber exploitation/harvesting, poaching and smuggling of prohibited species, as well as illegal migration, were still prevalent on the increase. Similarly, it was noted that transnational organised crimes, including human trafficking, as well as terrorist financing, had continued to evolve in sophistication.
9. Concerning regional security, the Commission noted that the situation was generally stable. That notwithstanding, it was observed that instability in some parts of the Southern African region posed a serious challenge to sustainable peace and development. In this connection, the Commission commended the two (2) countries for contributing towards

Peace Support Operations under the auspices of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In the same vein, the Commission commended the Republics of Zambia and Namibia for their valuable roles as Chair and Outgoing Chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation, respectively.

10. In terms of consolidation of democratic values in the SADC region, the Commission noted that a number of Member States conducted peaceful elections during the period under review. In this context, the Zambian delegation wished the Government and the People of Namibia, which was scheduled to hold Presidential and National Assembly elections on 27 November 2024, a peaceful electoral process, so that democratic values could be entrenched further in the region.
11. With regard to global developments, the Commission underscored the need for continued peace, human health and environmental security. The Commission recognised the fact that adverse developments in any part had ramifications on the rest of the world. In view of this, it was agreed that efforts aimed at addressing insecurity, pandemics and climate change should be intensified. Meanwhile, the Commission

commended the Governments of the two (2) Republics for putting in place measures to mitigate the impact of the drought, particularly on food and energy security.

12. In concluding its deliberations, the Commission reaffirmed its commitment towards securing the defence and security interests of both Namibia and Zambia, as well as effectively contributing towards the maintenance of regional, continental and global peace. To this end, the two (2) delegations devised various strategies to facilitate, among other things, enhanced collaboration, sharing of information, as well as regular exchange programmes at various levels of co-operation.
13. To this end, the Namibian delegation thanked the Zambian delegation for accepting the invitation to the 25th Session of the Commission and playing a pivotal role in developing the new strategies. The Zambian delegation, in reciprocity, expressed appreciation to the Namibian delegation for the warm hospitality extended during its stay in Namibia and the coastal town of Swakopmund, in particular.
14. The Zambian delegation extended an invitation to Namibia to the 26th Session of the Zambia-Namibia Joint Permanent Commission on Defence and Security to be held in Zambia,

on a date and venue to be confirmed, to which the Namibian delegation graciously accepted. The Namibian delegation wished the Zambian delegation safe passage back home.

15. Generally, the 25th Session of the Commission was held in an open and friendly atmosphere, characteristic of the excellent bilateral relations that exist between Namibia and Zambia. The deliberations reflected the Pan-African spirit and the values of the SADC, to which both States subscribe.

CONFIRMATION

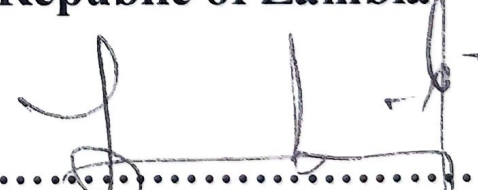
**For/and on behalf of the
Government of the
Republic of Namibia**



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Frans Kapofi, MP,
Minister of Defence and
Veterans Affairs

**For/and on behalf of the
Government of the
Republic of Zambia**



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Ambrose L. Lufuma, MP,
Minister of Defence

Swakopmund, Namibia

1st August, 2024