



**.JOINT PARI IAMFNT**

Welcoming Remarks

By

**Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, MP  
Speaker of the National Assembly of the  
Republic of Namibia**

On the occasion of the visit to National Assembly  
in the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia

By

**His Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee  
President of the Republic of India**

16<sup>th</sup> June 2016



**Welcoming Remarks by Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, MP  
Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia**

**On the Occasion of the Visit to the National Assembly in the  
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**Your Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of the  
Republic of India,**

**Your Excellency Dr. Sam Nujoma, Founding President of the  
Republic of Namibia,**

**Hon. Margret Mensah-Williams, Chairperson of the National  
Council,**

**Hon. Loide Kasingo, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly,**

**Hon. Sibalatani, Deputy Chairperson of the National Council,**

**Members of both Houses of the Namibian Parliament,**

**Hon. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in the Office of the Indian  
Prime Minister of India,**

**Hon. Shri Mansukh La Mandaviya, Member of Parliament  
(Upper House) of India,**

**Hon. Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, Member of Parliament (Lower House)  
of India,  
Senior Government Officials from India and Namibia,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
My dear wife, Mrs. Rosemary Jane Katjavivi,  
Distinguished Invited Guests,  
Members of the Media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

It gives me a great pleasure and distinct honour to welcome Your Excellency Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India, the world's largest democracy, into the Namibian Parliament, on the course of your State Visit to Republic of Namibia.

We are glad that the President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, took the initiative to invite you to visit our country and we are glad that you are with us here today.

Mr. President, Namibia and India enjoy a very close and cordial relationship. This relationship was established way back before the independence of this country. It is a relationship that was founded on the basis of mutual trust, support and solidarity that the Government and people of India extended to Namibians during our

struggle for freedom and independence. India came to our help when we needed it most. India was the first Government to openly, formally grant diplomatic status to SWAPO, then as a liberation movement. This wonderful gesture and expression of goodwill by India towards the people of Namibia laid a concretely strong foundation for the good cooperation and friendship between the people of India and the people of Namibia.

**Your Excellency,**

**Honourable Members,**

In the recent years, India and Namibia have collaborated in a number of fields aimed at promoting bilateral relations. We recall with thanks and appreciation, the various education and on-job training programmes that the Government of the Republic of India has extended to the Government of Namibia. We also wish to acknowledge the support that the Government of India has extended to Namibia by providing technical assistance and policy formulation since our country's independence. During my time as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia, I had a number of Indian colleagues who served the university. India's outreach efforts have continued to carry forward the momentum generated in India-Africa ties since the India – Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) III; which was held in New Delhi, India in October 2015. We certainly want to see a growth in the cooperation between Namibia and India and a

deepened engagement, even with the rest of Africa especially now as African countries have rejuvenated the call for regional integration on the continent.

**Honourable Members,**

**Distinguished Invited Guests,**

Our distinguished guest, the President of the Republic of India, is an eminent Statesman, who has served his country in various capacities, including as Foreign Affairs, Defence, Commerce and Finance Minister at different times. He was elected to the Upper House of Parliament five times since 1969 and twice to the Lower House of Parliament from 2004. He assumed office as 13<sup>th</sup> Head of State of the Republic of India on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2012, crowning a political career of over five decades of exemplary service to the nation in Government as well as Parliament.

**Your Excellency, I now have the pleasure to take this opportunity to call upon you, to address this joint session of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia, combining both the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament!**

**You are most warmly welcome!**