



## *National Assembly*

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### **Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, MP's Speech at the Swearing in as Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia**

**20<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

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Dear Honourable Members of Parliament,

I wish to express and register my profound thanks and appreciation for the honour that Members have bestowed upon me as the new Speaker of this August House.

I wish to place on record my thanks to the incoming President, His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, for the confidence he has in me. I am equally thankful to the outgoing Head of State, His Excellency Dr.

Hifikepunye Pohamba, for the support, and cooperation I have enjoyed while in the Office of the Government Chief Whip.

As you know, this role entails working with all political parties, and their Whips, and I would like to sincerely thank them for their cooperation as well. We developed a positive culture of respect and mutual understanding of our roles in this House, and I hope this can continue.

My colleagues in the House, Members of my Party and those in the Opposition, the words 'thank you' are not enough. I am conscious as I stand here that it is you collectively, together with the leadership of my Party, headed by the incoming President, that saw it fit that I assume the new role of Speaker of this House.

I acknowledge with appreciation, the handing over, whereby the outgoing Speaker, the Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab MP, handed me the Ceremonial Mace, which is one of the major Symbols of Authority of the Parliament. This act symbolised the bestowing



of jurisdiction over the Office of the Speaker, and the responsibility of this position towards the people of this country.

Honourable colleagues,

I am conscious of the fact that I am stepping into the shoes of a giant, who has made an immense contribution to our country and is a well-known personality at home and abroad.

He too succeeded another equally well-versed giant in parliamentary affairs; that being the Late Hon. Dr. Mosé Penaani Tjitendero.

Both Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab and the Late Dr. Mosé Tjitendero have been close friends and colleagues of mine, with whom I shared a very close history of association as young men growing up together, and facing many years with a spirit of determination and perseverance.

On this note, I would like to especially thank my dear wife Jane and my children and grandchildren,

who have been by my side through all the challenges life brings.

Equally, I wish to extend my appreciation to my communities back home in Ovitoto and Okahandja, who have continuously counselled me, guided me, and supported me in my efforts to better serve Namibia.

Honourable Colleagues,

I look forward to working with all of you in this House and I count on your support in discharging our common duties in the best interests of our nation and the people we are here to serve. The Parliament is one of the three organs of the State, the other two being the Executive and the Judiciary. It is indeed an honour and privilege to serve in this honourable arena.

May I also take this opportunity to wish the incoming President, Dr Hage G. Geingob, strength and wisdom as he presides over the affairs of the

country. We admire his tenacity, and the vision that he has expounded in recent weeks, and look forward to working with him. This is a time of excitement and hope, and this House, together with the other organs of the State, can work to implement the President's agenda.

I thank you all!