



CELEBRATING A LEGACY: *Prof. Peter Katjavivi*

A Lifetime of Leadership, Diplomacy, and Nation-Building

Publication of the Parliament of Namibia - March 2025

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	3
Biography - Speaker of the National Assembly	4
Time line of Prof. Peter Katjavivi	6
Acceptance speech by Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi	7
Katjavivi leads charge in designing Namibia's ICT-ready Parliament	8
Speaker Katjavivi champions children's participation in legislative process	10
Parliament achieves gender parity under Katjavivi . . .	11
'Katjavivi is a towering figure' - Zimbabwe National Assembly Speaker	12
Interview with Prof Peter Katjavivi	13
Farewell Messages	15
Photo Gallery	20
Notable Quotes	27

This is a special edition of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi who retired in March 2025 after being at the helm of the institution for a decade. Hon. Katjavivi succeeded the late Hon. Dr. Theo Ben Gurirab in 2015.

Contributors

Mr George Sanzila
Mr Eino Vatileni
Mr Andreas Sheya

Editor

Mr George Sanzila

Photography

Mr George Sanzila
Contributed pictures

Design & Layout

Silke Kotze

Website

www.parliament.na

Facebook: Parliament of the Republic of Namibia

Twitter: @parliament_nam

Instagram: parliamentnamibia

YouTube: Parliament of the Republic of Namibia

Printing

John Meinert (Pty) Ltd



A partner of the
Parliament of Namibia

Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Tel: 061- 225568

P.O. Box 1145

Windhoek

info.namibia@kas.de

www.kas.de/namibia

FOREWORD

Mrs Lydia T Kandetu

“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”
– John C. Maxwell.

In the spirit of this profound quote, it is with honor and heartfelt gratitude that I present this special edition in honor of the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Honorable Prof. Peter Hitjitevi Katjavivi. Since assuming the leadership of this esteemed institution in 2015, Hon. Prof. Katjavivi has exemplified unwavering dedication, outstanding leadership, and an enduring commitment to the principles of democracy, unity, and progress.

Through his guidance, the National Assembly has not only upheld its constitutional mandate but has also become a symbol of stability and progress. The National Assembly has grown into a robust platform for dialogue, legislation, and nation-building. His wisdom, humility, and ability to foster consensus have not only strengthened the institution but also inspired all who have had the privilege of working alongside him.

This special edition is a tribute to a leader who has given so much of himself to the service of our nation. As we bid farewell to a remarkable leader, we celebrate his legacy of service and his tireless efforts in shaping the legislative landscape of our nation. Hon. Prof. Katjavivi's contributions will forever remain etched in the annals of our history, and his leadership will continue to serve as a beacon for generations to come.

On behalf of the National Assembly and the people of Namibia, we extend our deepest appreciation and best wishes to Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi as he embarks on this new chapter of his life. May his retirement be filled with joy, fulfillment, and the knowledge that his work has left an indelible mark on our nation.



LYDIA T KANDEU
SECRETARY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



BIOGRAPHY

Speaker of the National Assembly

20 March 2015-2024

PERSONAL

Professor Peter Hitjitevi Katjavivi was born on 12 May 1941 in Okahandja, Otjozondjupa region, Namibia. Katjavivi was married to Jane Katjavivi, and they have five children. Besides his native Herero language, he is multilingual, speaking five other languages.

EDUCATION

Professor Katjavivi has had an illustrious academic and political career. His educational journey began in Namibia, where he attended his primary education at Rhenisch Herero School in Windhoek, followed by Augustineum Secondary School in Okahandja from 1960 to 1961. He then pursued further studies at Umuahia Government College in Nigeria, from 1963 to 1966. In 1966, Katjavivi continued his education at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, enrolling in History, Law, and Political Science programs.

Katjavivi's political involvement began early in his life when he joined the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) in the 1960s. His role within the organization included overseeing SWAPO's offices abroad, particularly in London.

In 1980, Katjavivi enrolled at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom to pursue a Master's degree, completing his thesis titled *'Some Aspects of Namibia's Political Sociology'*. He later earned a Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) degree from St Antony's College, Oxford, in 1986, with his doctoral thesis titled *'The Rise of Nationalism in Namibia and its International Dimensions'*. Previously, he was the founding Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia (UNAM) from 1992 to 2003. He is currently a Chancellor of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) since 2016.

POLITICAL CAREER

Following the November 2009 Parliamentary Election, former president Hifikepunye Pohamba

appointed Prof. Katjavivi to the National Assembly as one of the six non-voting members of parliament appointed by the President, with his term beginning in March 2010. He subsequently served as SWAPO's Chief Whip in the National Assembly. In the November 2014 parliamentary election, he was elected to the National Assembly as a SWAPO candidate.

When the National Assembly began its new term of the 6th Parliament in March 2015, Prof. Katjavivi was elected and sworn in as Speaker of the National Assembly, succeeding the late Dr. Theoben Gurirab on 20 March 2015. Prof.

THE GENESIS

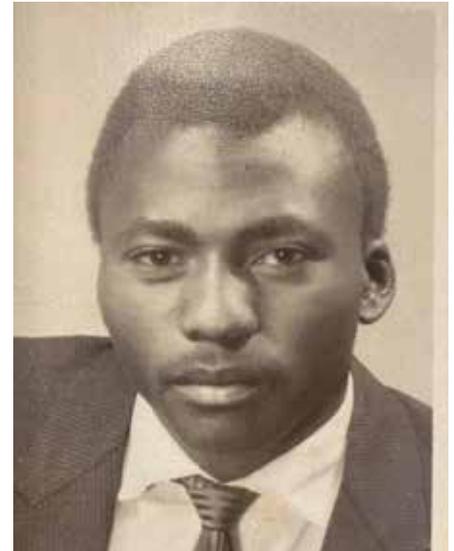
Prof. Katjavivi served as SWAPO deputy representative in Tanzania from 1966-1968. He also served as a SWAPO Representative for the United Kingdom and Western Europe from 1968-1976. He was also a SWAPO secretary for legal and economic affairs from 1969-1976, and SWAPO Secretary for Information and Publicity from 1976-1979.

He was a member of the SWAPO Central Committee from 1976-1983, a Director of the Colin Winter Centre for Namibia in Oxford, United Kingdom in 1986, and a Director of the Pilot Study on Namibian History at the University of Joensuu, Finland from 1986-1987.

Professor Katjavivi was a visiting fellow at Yale University's Southern African Research Programme from 1988-1989, a Director of the SWAPO Research Unit from 1989-1999, and a Founding Trustee and Director of the Namibia Economic Policy Research Unit (NEPRU) from 1990-1991.

In addition, Prof. Katjavivi also served as Chairman of the Council of National Monuments (now the National Heritage Council of Namibia) from 1992 to 2000, and as an Executive Council Member of UNESCO from 1993 to 1997.

In addition, he was a member of the Namibian Constituent Assembly from 1989-1990, a Special Advisor on Higher Education to the government



Speaker, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi as a young man.

from 1990-1992. He later served as Ambassador of Namibia to Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and the European Union in Brussels from 2003 to 2006, Ambassador to Germany from 2006-2008, and Director General of the National Planning Commission from 2008-2010.

PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY

Professor Katjavivi has made significant contributions to inter-parliamentary cooperation and diplomacy, regional integration, and the promotion of democracy in Southern Africa. Through his active engagement in forums such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), he has championed dialogue, strengthened democratic governance, and fostered collaboration across borders. His leadership underscores the critical role of parliamentary diplomacy in advancing peace, unity, and sustainable development in the region and beyond.

see Katjavivi on page 5...

...Katjavivi from page 4

Prof. Katjavivi served as the Vice President of the IPU task force addressing the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The IPU Assembly is a global organization of Parliaments around the world that brings together lawmakers to identify international challenges and make recommendations for action.

Katjavivi also participated in the 9th BRICS Parliamentary Forum held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 27 to 29 September 2023 on invitation by his counterpart, Hon. Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula.

BRICS is a group of five major emerging economies focusing on economic cooperation and increasing multilateral trade and development among the bloc. Member countries currently include Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Over 40 countries have so far expressed interest in joining the bloc.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS- IPU ASSEMBLY

As the head of the Namibian delegation to the IPU and other related assemblies for the past 10 years, Katjavivi has played an active part in promoting IPU's global vision. Namibia is listed among the 38% of countries that have passed legislation, adopted decisions and/or taken specific action in follow up to IPU outcomes. The country has implemented affirmative action policies to increase women's representation in decision making positions. In Addition, Namibia values inclusivity and participatory democracy and as a result has introduced the Children's parliament, one of the most transformative initiatives that has become an exemplary model of youth engagement and has had a remarkable impact on policy formulation in Namibia.

Katjavivi also served as the Vice President of the IPU Task force addressing the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS- SADC-PF

The 1992 Windhoek Declaration laid the foundation for the formation of the SADC-PF with the significant contribution of Katjavivi's predecessors, especially the founding Speaker, Hon. Dr. Moses Tjitendero. Katjavivi is a long serving Speaker of the National Assembly and SADC-PF's Executive Committee. He has played a pivotal

role in the SADC-PF, being the host Speaker, and has continued to make contributions aimed at transforming the SADC-PF into a regional parliament.

Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi was also recently elected as the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) trust fund. Initiated in 2021, the trust fund is meant to spearhead fund raising activities to support the work of the SADC-PF in line with its strategic goals.

He has continued to advocate for the fostering of greater awareness on the importance of parliamentary diplomacy and regional integration.

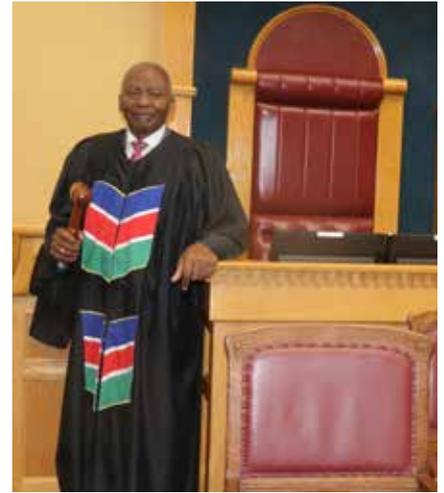
BILLS PASSED- 2015-2025

• During his tenure as Speaker for a decade, a total of **145 bills** have been passed.

PUBLICATIONS

Speaker Peter Katjavivi is author of many publications and contributed papers at numerous academic and development conferences in Namibia, Africa, Europe, North America and Asia and also received many Awards and Honours from Finland, France and India. Among his publications are:

- Katjavivi, P. H. 'From Colonialism to Bilaterality: Challenges of the Namibian-German Relationship', in Arndt, L., Krümmel, C., Schmidt, D., Schmutz, H., Stoller, D. and Wuggenig, U. (eds), Dierk Schmidt. The Division of the Earth. Tableaux on the Legal Synopsis of the Berlin Africa Conference, Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, Cologne, 2010.
- Katjavivi, P. H. 'Namibia - From Liberation to Transformation', in World University Service, 60-Jahre World University Service in Deutschland 1950-2010, Wiesbaden, Germany, 2010.
- Katjavivi, P.H. A History of Resistance in Namibia, James Currey/UNESCO/OAU, 1988.
- Frostin, P., Katjavivi, P.H., Mbuende K., Church and Liberation in Namibia, Zwan Publications, London 1989.
- Katjavivi, P.H. 'Revisiting the Role of the Herero Speaking Community in Botswana in Namibia's Independence in Namibia', Yale University Southern African Program Paper, 1989.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Professor Katjavivi has been widely recognised for his exceptional contributions to parliamentary diplomacy, regional integration, and democratic governance. Among his numerous accolades, he was honored with a *Certificate of Distinction for Outstanding Service to the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)* in 2024. His awards reflect his dedication to advancing peace, collaboration, and development in Southern Africa and beyond. Below is a comprehensive list of his distinguished honors and recognitions.

- Ordre des Palmes Académiques , France, 1996
- Distinguished Academic Visitor Award, New Delhi, India, 1998
- Honorary Doctorate of the University of Joensuu, Finland, 1999
- Certificate of Service to the Executive Council of the Association of African Universities (AAU), 2002
- Most Brilliant Order of the Sun, First Class, Heroes' Day 2014
- Honorary doctorate degree by the University of Bath in London, 2018
- Certificate of Distinction for outstanding service to the SADC-PF and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), 2024
- A prestigious Status at the University of Havana for his significant contribution on various of education and political science, Cuba, 2024
- An Honorary Fellowship by Cardiff University in recognition of his remarkable contributions to politics, education, and society, 2024

TIME LINE OF *Prof. Peter Katjavivi*

1941: Born on 12 May 1941 in Okahandja
Primary education at Rhenisch Herero School in Windhoek

1960: Augustineum Secondary School in Okahandja

1966: University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, enrolling in History, Law, and Political Science programs

1966: Served as SWAPO deputy representative in Tanzania from 1966

1968: Served as a SWAPO Representative for the United Kingdom and Western Europe

1969: SWAPO secretary for legal and economic affairs

1976: SWAPO Secretary for Information and Publicity

1976: Member of the SWAPO Central Committee

1986: Earned a Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) degree from St Antony's College, Oxford

1986: Director of the Pilot Study on Namibian History at the University of Joensuu, Finland

1988: Visiting fellow at Yale University's Southern African Research Programme

1989: Director of the SWAPO Research Unit

1990: Director of the Namibia Economic Policy Research Unit (NEPRU)

1992: Vice-Chancellor of the University of Namibia (UNAM)

1992: Chairman of the Council of National Monuments (now the National Heritage Council of Namibia)

1993: Executive Council Member of UNESCO

2003: Ambassador of Namibia to Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and the European Union in Brussels

2006: Ambassador to Germany

2008: Director General of the National Planning Commission

2009: Appointed to the National Assembly as one of the six non-voting members of parliament

2014: Elected to the National Assembly as a SWAPO candidate

2015: Elected and sworn in as Speaker of the National Assembly



Speaker, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi as a young man at 19 years old.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi (left) with late President, Dr. Hage Geingob at one of the graduations when the latter served as founding Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi (right) with late Ovaherero chief, Hon. Kuiama Riruako



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi (3rd from left) with Late President, H.E. Dr. Hage Geingob (middle) and Higher education minister, Dr. Kandji Murangi (2nd from left) with the council of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) where Katjavivi is the Chancellor.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi (right) with founding President, H.E. late Dr. Sam Nujoma (middle) and late Zimbabwean President, H.E. Robert Mugabe during one of the graduations at the University of Namibia. Hon. Katjavivi served as Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia from 1992 to 2003.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi (left) being handed the instruments of power after he succeeded, late Speaker, Dr. Theo Ben Gurirab in 2015.

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY *Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi*



Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi during his swearing in as Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of the Republic of Namibia on 20 March 2015.

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

I wish to place on record my thanks to the incoming President for the confidence he has in me. I am equally thankful to the outgoing Head of State for the support and cooperation I have enjoyed while in the Office of the Government Chief Whip.

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

I acknowledge with appreciation, the handing over that we witnessed a minute ago whereby the outgoing Speaker, the Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, MP, handed over the Gavel and the Ceremonial Robe, which are some of the major Symbols of Authority of the Office of the Speaker of Parliament, in addition to the Ceremonial Mace.

This handover act symbolised the handover of the jurisdiction over the Office of the Speaker and the authority to ensure the continuation of the responsibility which we are expected to discharge on behalf of the people of this country. I am cautious of the fact that I am stepping into the shoes of a giant, who has made immense contributions to our country and 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 Tjitendero. Both Hon. Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab and the Late Dr. Mosé Tjitendero have been close friends and colleagues of mine, with whom we shared a very close history of association as young men growing up together and facing many years with a spirit of determination and perseverance.

I look forward to working with all of you in this House and I count on your support in discharging our common goals of undertaking our responsibilities fairly and in the best interests of our nation and the people we are here to serve. ■

KATJAVIVI LEADS CHARGE

in designing Namibia's ICT-ready Parliament

The Parliament of Namibia has made progress in moving towards an Information Communication Technology (ICT) compliant parliament.

The demands of the modern world have pushed the Namibian legislature to rapidly transform, despite the significant costs associated with adopting these technologies.

Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi, has advocated for the e-parliament concept and worked with Parliament's development partners, including Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), Enhancing Participatory Democracy in Namibia (EPDN) Programme, the Chinese government, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), and the World Bank.

These partnerships aim to help transform Parliament into a fully virtual center, improving its functionality and accessibility.

THE AGENDA FOR CHANGE

A comprehensive e-parliament strategy was developed with the assistance from the World bank and launched in 2022 by Hon. Katjavivi. The strategy is aimed at accelerating efficiency within the operations of parliament and in its interactions with stakeholders through the use of digital technology.

According to Katjavivi, the plans for transformation began during the time of his predecessors, with the initiative known as *"The Agenda for Change."*

"The Agenda for Change refers to certain strategic interventions suggested right from the reign of the first Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr. Mose Tjitendero and from his successor, Dr. Theo Ben Gurirab through to recent years, as being important pathways to transform the Namibian Parliament and bring it in line with other parliaments around the world", Katjavivi said.

Other plans included in the Agenda for Change strategy were the establishment of a Parliamentary Select Committee on the Budget and the

creation of the Parliamentary Service Commission.

The proposed Budget Committee has since been approved and set up by Parliament.

The long held dream of detaching parliament from the Public Service Commission could also be realized soon as a result of continued relentless efforts by Katjavivi.

The Bill will be tabled in the 8th parliament to pave the way for the realisation of the long awaited Parliamentary Service Commission.

PARLIAMENT AND THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

As the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted institutions worldwide, the Namibian Parliament was no exception. The pandemic forced Parliament, like many other institutions, to adopt innovations such as information technologies, which have since become deeply integrated into the workplace.

Despite the challenge, progress was made with the support of development partners.

Hon. Katjavivi said "the pandemic acted as a catalyst for re-inventing the future and has helped to fast-track the long-held dream of transforming the Namibian Parliament into a paperless institution".

He added, "The Parliament of Namibia with the help of the World Bank implemented an e-Parliament strategy, this significant step is aimed at embracing digital transformation and risk management, particularly in response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for continuity in legislative activities,".

During the pandemic, the National Assembly held its meetings and sessions virtually for the first time in its history, to comply with the state of emergency regulations that limited the number of lawmakers that can be present at one time in the chamber.



Some members of the National Assembly attended the first of a series of trainings aimed at equipping the lawmakers with knowledge of how to use the new digital system installed in the chamber.

see ICT on page 9...

...ICT from page 8

The first session of the 7th Parliament began on the 24th of March 2020 but had to be halted due to the outbreak of the pandemic, and only resumed later on 26 May 2020, until its conclusion on Wednesday 8 July 2020.

Only 50 members were hosted in the chamber to ensure adherence to public health regulations, but also to ensure that the constitutional requirement of forming a quorum was met. Members that were not physically present in the chamber were connected via an online video link in separate meeting rooms in the parliament building.

The tabling of the Appropriation Bill (*the national budget*) and its subsequent debates, as well as the State of the Nation Address by late President Hage Geingob, were all held with these new innovations, including social media live streaming.

E-PARLIAMENT POST COVID 19

Still in 2020, at the height of the COVID 19 pandemic, the National Assembly installed a digital multimedia system at a cost of N\$5.3 million.

The digital technology system, replete with touchscreen functionality, can give lawmakers access to a plethora of digital parliamentary documents such as the agenda (Order Paper), Bills, the Constitution and Standing Rules and Orders among many others.

The system further enables the Speaker, as the presiding officer, the chance to properly control debate in the house by deciding who should speak through a control unit. Members can also vote electronically and may request other miscellaneous services.

Members of parliament were further trained on how to use the new digital multimedia system. Katjavivi noted then during the training that the new development will make the work of parliament much more convenient and efficient.

"Our work will become much easier from now on. Voting will be more convenient as votes will be tallied automatically instead of counting manually. It will also help with the digital attendance", Katjavivi said.

The National Assembly's biggest conference hall has also been refurbished following discussions between Katjavivi and his Chinese counterpart, Hon. Li Zhanshu after the latter's visit to the Namibian Parliament in 2018.



The newly installed multimedia conference system enables lawmakers to vote electronically.

According to Katjavivi, the conference hall will continue to serve as a virtual centre, post Covid – 19 pandemics.

In keeping with the parliament mantra of inclusivity and taking parliament to the people, the National Assembly, under Prof. Katjavivi, introduced livestreaming services such as public hearings on social media platforms reaching over 100 000 users daily since its inception.

In 2021, the Speaker launched a revamped parliament website through the assistance of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS). The revamped website has been boosted with features such as livestream of parliament sessions and the bill tracking system.

In May 2024, Parliament launched its "Parliament on Wheel" with the assistance of its development partners. The unveiling of the state-of-the-art Parliament Bus by Prof. Katjavivi is aimed at bringing the heart of Namibia's democracy closer to the people.

RECENT E-PARLIAMENT INITIATIVES

Speaker Katjavivi is set to unveil several newly launched digital tools before his retirement in March of this year.

These initiatives, which include a mobile app, an online bill register system, and an information communication technology (ICT) policy framework, are designed to provide easy access to parliamentary information and actively involve citizens in the lawmaking process.

The launching of these tools will modernise the operations of parliament by ensuring improved transparency,

citizen engagement, and parliamentary efficiency. The mobile app will distribute digital information on parliament via mobile devices while the online bill register is meant to keep track of bills from the time they are first introduced to when they are enacted into law.

These tools were funded by Parliament's development partners, the Enhancing Participatory Democracy in Namibia (EPDN) and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

According to Katjavivi, the installation of these e-parliament initiatives would demand re-skilling in order to facilitate workforce optimisation.

During Katjavivi's last address to the 56th SADC-PF Plenary Assembly held in Livingstone, Zambia in 2024, he called on SADC Member states to take the lead in adopting technological advancements while promoting inclusive governance.

Katjavivi added that regional parliaments further need to make use of the services of the Southern Africa Regional ICT Hub for capacity building.

"The regional hub promotes the effective use of technology in parliaments by sharing and consolidating information on past, ongoing and future ICT initiatives at regional level, and global level," the speaker said.

He added, "The Southern Africa Regional ICT Hub (SAHUB), housed by the Parliament of Zambia, is meant to support Southern African parliaments in digital transformation. It would be informative to get a brief on how Parliaments within the SADC Region are interacting with this hub," ■

SPEAKER KATJAVIVI CHAMPIONS *children's participation in legislative process*



A file picture of Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi with members of the Children's Parliament during the previous sessions.

Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi has relentlessly promoted the rights of children through an initiative known as the Children's parliament.

This parliament gives young people a voice to participate in the country's democratic process. It has become more than just a space for dialogue, but an institution where young people hold legislators and government accountable.

The Children's Parliament is an initiative of the Namibian Parliament in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The initiative, which began 17 years ago under the leadership of Katjavivi's predecessor, the late Hon. Dr. Theo Ben Gurirab, has grown significantly over the years. Katjavivi has overseen two successful sessions during his term in office, in 2019 and 2024.

Approximately 100 learners from 14 regions gather every four years for a one-week event. During this time, they familiarize themselves with the legislative process, discuss the

challenges they face, and propose changes to legislation that affect their welfare.

Before the sessions begin, learners undergo an intensive induction program. They are then sworn in as members of the Children's Parliament for a two-year term, with a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker. Afterward, they are divided into Standing Committees to address various issues of concern.

According to Katjavivi, the Children's Parliament is further premised on the Namibian Constitution that calls for freedom of expression and fundamental human rights.

"The purpose of the Children Parliament is to inculcate or cultivate a democratic culture amongst our youth as they prepare to become leaders of tomorrow. It calls for the need to provide space for different views to be heard, including those views that you may not necessarily agree with as articulated in Articles 17 and 21 of the constitution of Namibia", Katjavivi said.

He added that Namibia attaches great importance to the rights of children

as it has enacted and ratified a myriad of both domestic and international conventions aimed at protecting the rights of children.

"The National Assembly has over the years passed and adopted national laws and international instruments to protect the children and promote their rights such as the UN Convention on the rights of the child, ILO Convention on prohibition of worst forms of Child Labour, the Combating of Rape Act, Child Protection Act and National Orphans and Vulnerable Children Policy among others", he said.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The previous sessions of the Children's parliament have been a resounding success that has culminated into progressive legislations. Over 98 motions have been tabled and debated.

The Learner Pregnancy Policy by the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture was adopted after successful lobbying by the Children's parliament. The policy gives a second chance to young pregnant girls to go back to school after delivery as well as those who fail Grade 10.

Successful discussions have led to the inclusion of input from previous sessions in the Child Care and Protection Act, including contributions that resulted in an increase in grants for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC).

The Speaker has elevated the Children's Parliament by involving it in global discussions at prominent international forums, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). In 2024, the Speaker was accompanied by Children's Parliament members Prisha Mokotjomela and Gerson Neumbo, who participated in discussions on Parliamentary action for school meals at the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. ■

PARLIAMENT ACHIEVES *gender parity under Katjavivi*

Namibia continues to play a leading role in championing gender equality in parliaments across the globe.

It is among the highly ranked countries in the world by the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) in terms of women progress alongside their male counterparts in political representation.

It is also second to Rwanda in Africa that has a 61% of women representation and fourth in the world. The latest statistics released by the National Assembly revealed that out of 104 lawmakers of the seventh parliament, 53 are female members, surpassing their male counterparts and translating to a 51 per cent representation.

Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi said he is pleased with this development noting

that it would serve as a yardstick for other parliaments.

“In the National Assembly today, we are talking about 50/50 gender representation. This is something we should encourage and sustain. It should become part of our culture and values, and not be a once-off development”, Katjavivi appealed.

However, Katjavivi cautioned against complacency noting that despite the achievements, Namibia still experiences comparatively high income inequality across all genders.

In his final plea as Speaker, Katjavivi implored other parliaments to strengthen their efforts meant to improve gender representation in their respective countries.

“Gender inclusivity should be our collective pre-occupation as members

of parliament. At present, women occupy a considerable number of seats in our various parliaments, however there is room for each parliament to do more so as to be drivers for change for gender parity”, pleaded Katjavivi.

The Speaker further called for gender responsive budgeting, adding that it is imperative to the realisation of gender inclusivity and equality.

“It is significant that we are gender sensitive parliaments who endorse budgets that are meant to protect and empower the girl child, promote youth inclusion in the national debate and nation building and also emancipate women”, Katjavivi appealed.

He will be retiring as Speaker in March 2025.



The National Assembly has achieved gender parity among the Members of Parliament.

'KATJAVIVI IS A TOWERING FIGURE' - Zimbabwe National Assembly Speaker

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, Advocate Jacob Mudenda, hailed his Namibian counterpart, Professor Peter Katjavivi, describing him as a 'towering figure' in the efforts to transform the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) into a regional parliament.

He made these remarks at a valedictory ceremony organised by the SADC-PF in Katjavivi's honour on the margins of the 56th Plenary Assembly hosted by the Parliament of Zambia in Livingstone, Zambia on 10 December 2024.

Mudenda, who is part of the Executive Committee of the Forum and also serves as the head of the SADC-PF Strategic lobbying team that has spearheaded the transformation agenda, commended Katjavivi for his commitment to the transformation and regional integration.

"I would like to acknowledge Honourable Peter Katjavivi as the host of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and a dedicated member of the strategic lobbying team for the transformation of the SADC-PF into a regional parliament in the past 10 years," Mudenda said.

He added, "His visionary leadership and commitment towards SADC regional integration have established a strong foundation for regional interface and democratic governance within the SADC region. His contributions to this noble cause are both hallowing and inspirational,".

According to Mudenda, the Forum traces its origins in Namibia with the 1992 Windhoek Declaration having laid the foundation for its creation.

"The formation of the SADC-PF has its genesis in Namibia, which has played a pioneering role in the evolution of the regional SADC parliamentarism. The historic 1992 Windhoek Declaration laid the foundation. Namibia's contribution to the creation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum is historic," Mudenda said.

"The country's leaders, especially the late founding Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Moses Tjitendero, was instrumental in fervently advocating for the establishment of this parliamentary institution. Consequently, it is no wonder that Namibia became the privileged country to be the SADC PF host up to today", Mudenda added.

Supporting Mudenda sentiments, president of the SADC-PF, Hon. Roger Mancienne, described Katjavivi as a dedicated proponent of regional integration and the transformation of the SADC-PF into a regional parliament.

THANK YOU

In his valedictory remarks, Professor Katjavivi who recounts his life journey dating back to the time of Namibia's struggle for independence, thanked the SADC-PF, urging members of parliament to continue contributing to the forum to impact the lives of ordinary citizens.

Katjavivi said unity and cooperation in the region were imperative after the attainment of independence, hence the creation of institutions such as the SADC-PF.

He noted that Namibia has been actively involved in the work of the regional parliamentary body from the time of his predecessors adding that he was delighted that transformation has been achieved including the recently launched SADC-PF Trust Fund.

"My dear friend, Advocate Mudenda referred to the role played by our founding Speaker and Dr. Theo Ben Gurirab when he took over. I have inherited that responsibility to be actively involved in the work of the SADC-PF. We are proud that today, we are talking about transformation as well as the Trust Fund which we just



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi receiving a gift as a token of appreciation for his dedicated service to the SADC-PF.

launched as a vehicle to drive an extra budget and fund raising. The honour that you have bestowed on me through this get together is overwhelming", said an emotional Katjavivi to loud applause.

The 56th Plenary Assembly was Katjavivi's last SADC-PF Assembly attendance in his capacity as Speaker.

A revered politician, educationist and diplomat, he has been the Speaker of the National Assembly since March 2015 after several roles as founding Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia, Ambassador and Director General of the National Planning Commission among others.

He is a long serving member of the SADC-PF's Executive Committee and the Vice President of the IPU task force on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. He will be retiring as Speaker in March 2025. ■

INTERVIEW WITH

Prof Peter Katjavivi

Senior Information Officer for Information Services at the National Assembly, Eino Vatileni (EV) sat down with the Speaker of the national Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi (PK) ahead of his retirement to reflect on his work as Speaker of the 6th and 7th Sessions of Parliament.

EV: Hon. Speaker, over the past decade, you have presided over a diverse group of MPs. How would you assess the overall performance of the MPs during your tenure?

PK: Thank you very much, I would like to say, that my assessment of the overall performance of the MPs during my tenure is based on **effective legislative impact, effective representation, effective debates and advocacy.**

During my tenure as Speaker of the National Assembly, MPs have effectively passed meaningful legislation or contributed to key policy reforms during the 6th and 7th Parliament. Besides that, MPs played a crucial role of being actively listening to the concerns of fellow citizens and advocates on their behalf. This is demonstrated by legislative oversight visits and regular outreach programs undertaken by MPs during the 6th and 7th Parliament. Additionally, they effectively reflected their ability to engage in complex discussions and influence decisions in the best interest of the country.

EV: As you reflect on your tenure, are you satisfied with the overall achievements of this Parliament, both the 6th and 7th Parliament?

PK: Yes, I am satisfied with the achievement of this Parliament. During the 6th and 7th Parliament, we passed significant legislation, such as the **Access to Information Act**, which promotes transparency and accountability in governance. Moreover, the Combating of **Domestic Violence Amendment Act** was passed. Beyond legislation, Parliament has made strides in institutional reforms, including the launch of the Namibia E-Parliament Strategy 2022-2027. This is transforming the Legislative process through digitalization. The Parliament Clinic was established during this period, to provide essential

health care to MPs and Staff members. Furthermore, Outreach in initiatives, such as Parliament on Wheel has been instrumental.

EV: What were some of the highlights of these two Parliaments (6th and 7th)?

PK: During the 6th and 7th Parliament, Namibia's Parliament has achieved significant milestones, showcasing a proactive approach to governance and transparency, despite encountering challenges along the way.

Improvement in Public outreach and accessibility served as one key success. Increased use of media and mainstream media has notably magnified Parliament's visibility, enabling Namibians to remain better informed about legislative development.

A particularly notable achievement has been an increase in parliamentary oversight visits alongside public hearings and stakeholder consultations, which strengthened Parliament's ability to hold the government accountable and address pressing issues within local communities.

On the International front, Namibia's Parliament has actively engaged in various prestigious inter-parliamentary forums, (SADC -PF, PAP, and IPU). These forums have facilitated valuable exchanges, providing Namibia with a platform to contribute to global and continental parliamentary dialogues.

Between 2020 -2024, several key milestones were achieved, including the passing of the following bills: **The Access to Information Act, and the Combating of Domestic Violence Amendment Act.** In terms of Institutional Advancement, Parliament launched an E-Parliament strategy (2022 -2027).

These milestones reflect Parliament's commitment to governance, public engagement and progressive policy.

EV: What steps did this Parliament take to promote youth engagement and women empowerment and representation during your tenure?

PK: Regarding youth engagements, the Children's Parliament convened multiple times during the 6th and 7th Parliament, allowing young people to voice their concerns and contribute to policymaking. Several workshops have been conducted to empower women in representation.

EV: Hon. Speaker, how has Parliament's investment in information and digital technology aligned with the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution?

PK: Parliament launched the Namibian E-Parliament Strategy 2022-2027. This is transforming the legislative process through digitization and ensuring a digital and paperless legislative process. This Strategy was driven by a commitment to modernizing the legislative processes, enhancing transparency and increasing public engagement. Parliament facilitated remote participation, ensuring inclusivity, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. Enhanced accessibility for citizens allowing online access to debates, bills and committee reports.

EV: There are always challenges in any journey. What were some of the major challenges you have experienced while at the helm of Parliament?

PK: The transition to a more digital and modernized Parliament has not been without its challenges. The move towards a paperless Parliament in 2018 marked a significant step forward.

The implementation of virtual sittings during the COVID-19 pandemic further demonstrated the adaptability.

Yet, ongoing challenges surrounding the upgrade of Information technology infrastructure and the upgrade of information technology infrastructure the enhancement of internet bandwidth persist, though progress is being made with a target of achieving 150Mbps bandwidth by 2027.

Parliament experiences challenges when it comes to implementation. While many parliamentary committees produced insightful reports and recommendations remained a challenge due to bureaucratic delays.

There have been budgetary constraints, and limited financial resources, particularly for the parliamentary standing committee to affect oversight and outreach activities.

Despite these challenges, Parliament remained steadfast in its commitment to legislative progress and institutional reforms.

EV: As Vice President of the IPU Assembly task force on the Russia-Ukraine conflict and a member of the executive committee at the SADC-PF, what have been the key highlights of your parliamentary diplomacy efforts in these roles?

PK: Namibia is a member of the IPU Task Force on the Russia- Ukraine Conflict and the Taskforce's position as endorsed by the IPU is premised on the four points namely to promote political dialogue in support of peacebuilding efforts in strict observance of the UN Charter and the principles of international law including national sovereignty; Territorial integrity and; Refraining from the threat and use of force. The Task Force has been engaging both parties on points identified as elements in which a level of convergence could be achieved and we are optimistic that this effort will bring a breakthrough in the negotiations process.

I have also been a long serving member of the SADC-Parliamentary Forum's Executive Committee, host Speaker and a dedicated member of the Strategic Lobbying Team for the transformation of the SADC PF into a Regional Parliament for the past 10 years. As you might be aware SADC countries have ceded to the treaty to transform the forum into the regional parliament, which is a big achievement for the region. The SADC-PF's successors trust board of trustees were also recently appointed to run the affairs of the trust and ensure that fund raising activities to support the work of the SADC-PF are carried out. This is coming at an opportune time when the regional body is making final preparations to transform into a regional parliament and with the trust formally constituted, the forum is ready to begin with its operations.



FAREWELL MESSAGES

Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, Hon. Adv. Jacob Mudenda,

"I would like to acknowledge Honourable Peter Katjavivi as the host of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and a dedicated member of the Strategic Lobbying Team for the transformation of the SADC PF into a Regional Parliament in the past 10 years. His visionary leadership and commitment towards SADC regional integration have established a strong foundation for regional interface and democratic governance within the SADC region. His contributions to this noble cause are both hallowing and inspirational. The formation of the SADC-PF has its genesis in Namibia, which has played a pioneering role in the evolution of the regional SADC parliamentarism. The historic 1992 Windhoek Declaration laid the foundation. Namibia's contribution to the creation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum is historic. The country's leaders, especially the late founding Speaker of the National Assembly (1990-2014), Hon. Dr. Moses Tjendero, were instrumental in fervently advocating for the establishment of this parliamentary institution. Consequently, it is no wonder that Namibia became the privileged country to be the SADC PF host up to today.



Dear Hon. Prof Peter H. Katjavivi,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to work under your leadership for the past nine (9) years. As you are approaching your retirement Hon Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your guidance, support, and mentorship.

Your unwavering belief in my abilities has been a constant source of motivation and inspiration. You have always encouraged me to push myself, take on new challenges, and grow both professionally and personally.

I am particularly grateful for the opportunities you have given me to lead and develop my team. Your trust in my judgment and your willingness to delegate responsibility especially with household matters have been invaluable to my growth.

Speaker, I will always cherish the memories and lessons I have learned during my time at National Assembly and opportunity given serving under your office.

Your leadership has not only shaped my career but also my life.

With much appreciation

Appollonia Zaire



As I say goodbye to Hon. Speaker Prof. Peter Katjavivi, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the incredible leadership and mentorship I have received during my time here with him, first from 21 March 2010 until 20 March 2015 as Chief Whip and Deputy Chairperson of the Whole House Committee in the National Assembly, and again from 21 March 2015 to 20 March 2025 when Hon. Speaker is going to go on retirement.

Your ability not only guided us as staff members towards success but has also fostered a positive and a supportive work environment that has been truly invaluable. I have learned so much from your insights, your unwavering belief in our potential, and your commitment to excellence.

The role of a Speaker is never easy, but you have been such a great Speaker. Your patience and kindness have inspired us, and we are very lucky to have you as Speaker of the National Assembly.

What we have understood from our interactions with you is that you are a storehouse of knowledge. We will always cherish the memories and lessons learned under your guidance. Thanks for always being approachable, we will miss your presence. Farewell to you, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi, and we wish you the best for your next chapter.

Immanuel Nehoya
Deputy Director: Table
Office



It is with deep gratitude and great honor that I reflect on my time serving in the Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia. The opportunity to work closely with the Right Honourable Speaker was not just a professional experience but a journey of learning, growth, and deep appreciation for the fundamental role that leadership and governance play in shaping a nation.

The Speakership is an office of great responsibility—one that requires wisdom, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to upholding the principles of democracy, good governance, and parliamentary diplomacy. Throughout my tenure, I had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the dedication with which the Speaker has carried out his mandate. His ability to navigate complex legislative processes, foster meaningful dialogue, and represent Namibia on both regional and international platforms is a testament to his profound understanding of parliamentary affairs and his passion for nation-building.

One of the most remarkable aspects of working in the Office of the Speaker was observing his commitment to inclusivity and youth empowerment. Under his leadership, initiatives such as the Children's Parliament and various parliamentary outreach programs flourished, ensuring that young voices were not only heard but also actively engaged in shaping policy discourse. His emphasis on modernizing parliamentary functions, particularly through the e-Parliament initiative, reflects his forward-thinking approach and dedication to strengthening institutional efficiency.

Beyond the official duties of the office, the Speaker's leadership extended to mentorship and guidance. His ability to inspire and cultivate the next generation of leaders is something that I, along with many others, will always cherish. His patience, humility, and keen attention to detail made working alongside him both a privilege and a lesson in excellence.

I trust that his legacy will continue to inspire those who serve in the halls of Parliament, as well as those who look up to public service as a noble calling. I remain deeply appreciative of the experiences and knowledge gained during my time in his office, and I have no doubt that his leadership will continue to leave an indelible mark on Namibia's democratic journey.

With the highest regard and appreciation,

Shaandre Cavin Finnies
Former Personal Assistant to the Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia



As you prepare to retire, we reflect upon your remarkable journey on Namibia's legislative landscape. Your unwavering dedication to public service, from your pivotal role in the liberation struggle to your esteemed tenure as Speaker of the National Assembly since March 2015 has been nothing short of inspiring.

Throughout your career you've exemplified patriotism, integrity and wisdom to the betterment of our society. It will forever remain a great privilege to have met such an inspiring leader.

Your journey may have ended in the political world but it has started a new. May you find joy in your well-deserved rest. Your legacy will undoubtedly guide Namibia for years to come.

With heartfelt gratitude and best wishes

Jane Phiri
Speaker of the Children's Parliament



The National Assembly Wellness Committee extends its deepest appreciation to the Hon. Speaker, Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, for his untiring support and encouragement to promoting a healthy and thriving workplace. Throughout his tenure, he has been a true champion of wellness, actively participating in sports, fun walks, and team-building activities and setting an inspiring example for all Members of Parliament and staff to practice healthy habits and prioritize one's well-being. His commitment went beyond participation; during the outbreak of COVID-19, the Speaker spearheaded the initiative to live-stream Chamber sessions to prevent overcrowding and encouraged staff to work in shifts and from home, ensuring their safety. He also played a pivotal role in the timely establishment and smooth functioning of the Parliament Clinic, recognizing the critical need for accessible healthcare services within the institution. His swift action and leadership, particularly following the unfortunate passing of two Members of Parliament on the premises, underscored his deep concern for the well-being of all. Hon Prof Peter Katjavivi's legacy of advocacy for wellness, the well-being of all and health initiatives will continue to benefit Parliament long after his retirement. As he embarks on a new chapter, we will dearly miss him at our events, especially the fun walks, of which he didn't miss any. We extend our sincere gratitude and best wishes for a fulfilling and healthy future. Thank you for your invaluable contributions and steadfast support.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: WELLNESS COMMITTEE

I joined the National Assembly, Office of the Speaker on 1 October 2021 as the Senior Private Secretary. This attachment was a great honour for me also attached with much fear of potentially failing in meeting the expectations of the office.

On my first day at the office after the induction I was introduced to Hon. Speaker by the Deputy Director Ms. Cornelia Tjaondjo as Hon. Speaker came in later after the introductions by HR. The meeting was warm and inviting and gave me much needed confidence as I was made to feel at home.

Hon. Speaker and if I may refer to you as father or grandfather as this is how I felt in your presence. Serving at your behest was a pleasure and honour. Having the privilege to serve you in rendering administrative and secretarial support and from time to time technical support, serve you with a cup of tea or coffee depending on the mood and day we are taking on was a great honour. Every cup of coffee or tea you finished to the bottom which I had made you and the complement that it was a well-balanced mixture pleased me and I would reminisce on the times I had the opportunity to serve my own father who is late, may his soul rest in peace.

What further pleases me is that I could finish my tenure with the office as per the conditions attached to it and the term of contract and not due to premature termination as this is evident that I was able to serve you.

Thank you for the support, guidance, leadership, fatherly warmth and encouragement during our tenure together. Your leadership and presence will be missed.

I wish you all the best with the projects you will be taking you on and in all ventures you will be embarking upon. This is not goodbye for ever and surely we will meet, speak and be in touch as long as we have life's breath.

May the good Lord, guide and keep you farewell Hon. Speaker.

From: Marilyn Prescilla Muinjo

Senior Private Secretary in the Office of the Speaker, Prof Peter H. Katjavivi – 1 October 2023 -19 March 2025

Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi was and will continue to be an inspiration and mentor for many young people, more so for those members of the Children's Parliament.

I recall the many lessons Professor taught me through stories whenever I would visit his office or when we found ourselves in the line of Parliamentary work. All I can say, as someone that has had the absolute privilege of knowing Prof. Katjavivi is thank you for being a candle that lit many other candles. Enjoy retirement.

Rivaldo Kanongo Kavanga
Chairperson of the Health Committee of the 5th Session of the Children's Parliament of Namibia



As we bid farewell to Professor Peter Katjavivi upon his retirement, we celebrate a life dedicated to service, leadership, and the advancement of Namibia. His unwavering commitment to education, governance, and diplomacy has left an indelible mark on our nation's history.

From his role in the liberation struggle to shaping Namibia's democratic institutions, Professor Katjavivi has been a pillar of wisdom and integrity. His contributions as an academic, diplomat, and Speaker of the National Assembly have inspired many and strengthened our democracy.

As he embarks on this new chapter, we express our deepest gratitude for his dedication and sacrifices. May his retirement be filled with joy, good health, and the satisfaction of knowing that his legacy will endure for generations to come.

Thank you, Professor Katjavivi. Namibia salutes you!

Michael Ajiboso
Deputy Speaker of Children's Parliament



Farewell message to Prof Peter Katjavivi, founding NUST chancellor

Ten years ago, when the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), was established by an Act of Parliament, Act No.7 of 2015, it became crystal clear that a major shift in the Namibian education sector was embarked upon. A Founding Chancellor who is a living testimony of an unwavering commitment to tertiary educational excellence, and that of empowering future generations in the name of Professor Peter Hitjitevi Katjavivi became the Chancellor of the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

Prof Peter Hitjitevi Katjavivi, I express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for your remarkable leadership as the Founding Chancellor of NUST, on behalf of the entire Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) community. NUST has grown in leaps and bounds in the areas of Science and Technology, Research and Innovation, international recognition and Strategic Partnership under your guidance and support.

As you embark on this new chapter of your life, NUST reflects on the countless lives you have touched. Your legacy will continue to thrive in the values of knowledge, integrity, and leadership you have instilled in us. Your legacy will resonate in every corner of NUST, from up north in Eenhana to Lüderitz down south.

We wish you good health and prosperity, a relaxed and blessed retirement full of peace and joy.

Thank you for your extraordinary service, leadership, and dedication to the Namibia University of Science and Technology and the education sector in general. We wish to continue to tap from your wisdom and guidance by retaining you as our Chancellor, as per Einstein's quote "Do not grow old, no matter how long you live. Never cease to stand like curious children before the great mystery into which we were born."

Sincerely
Prof Eroid Naomab
Vice-Chancellor



**NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

Honouring Prof. Peter Katjavivi: A Legacy of Leadership and Enduring Impact at UNAM

On behalf of the University of Namibia (UNAM), I extend my deepest gratitude and best wishes to Hon. Prof. Peter Hitjitevi Katjavivi as he embarks on his well-earned retirement from public service. His legacy is deeply woven into the fabric of UNAM, and we take this moment to honour his invaluable contributions to higher education in Namibia.

As **UNAM's Founding Vice-Chancellor from 1992 to 2003**, Prof. Katjavivi played a defining role in shaping what was then a fledgling institution into the reputable University it is today. Under his leadership, UNAM transitioned from concept to reality, laying the groundwork for an institution that would become a beacon of academic excellence and research.

His tenure was marked by the establishment of key faculties, the recruitment of a strong academic workforce, and the expansion of infrastructure to accommodate Namibia's growing need for higher education.

Prof. Katjavivi was instrumental in fostering partnerships between UNAM and global institutions, securing vital resources, and ensuring that Namibia's premier university was positioned as a centre of knowledge creation and innovation. His vision was not only about access to higher education but about the role that UNAM could play in national development, producing graduates who would go on to serve Namibia with distinction.

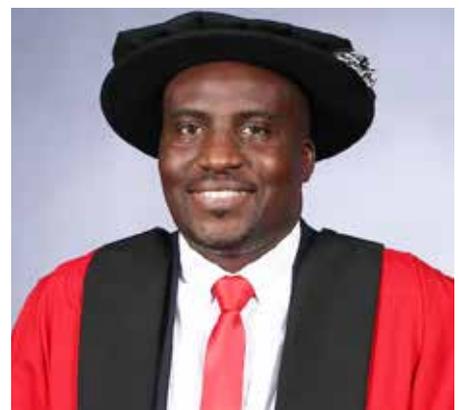
His legacy at UNAM remains visible, not just in the structures he helped establish, but in the very spaces of learning named in his honour. The **Peter Katjavivi Lecture Halls (PK1 and PK2)** on the Main Campus stand as a tribute to his pioneering leadership and commitment to higher education. Thousands of students pass through these halls each year, a reminder that the foundation he built continues to shape the future of Namibia.

While he went on to serve in distinguished roles beyond UNAM, including as Namibia's Ambassador and later as Speaker of the National Assembly, we at UNAM will always remember him first as our Founding Vice-Chancellor – the leader who built our University from the ground up.

On behalf of the entire UNAM community, staff, students, and alumni, I express our profound appreciation for Prof. Katjavivi's service to the University of Namibia.

We wish him a fulfilling retirement and assure him that his legacy at UNAM will endure for generations to come.

Warm regards,
Prof. Dr. Kenneth Matengu
Vice Chancellor, University of Namibia
March 2025



UNAM
UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

PHOTO GALLERY



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi (right) with his late wife, shortly before the official opening of parliament in 2022.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi with his Angolan counterpart, President of the National Assembly of Angola, Hon. Carolina Cerqueira during the 55th SADC PF Plenary Assembly hosted by the Parliament of the Republic of Angola in 2024.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Professor Peter Katjavivi greeted by Chinese President, XI Jinping during the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China (NPC) affiliation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the 2024 Inter-Regional Seminar on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for parliaments of developing countries in Beijing, China.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi (left) and his Turkish counterpart, H.E. Prof. Dr. Numan Kurtulmuş after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at enhancing parliamentary cooperation between the two legislatures, during the former's official visit to Turkey in 2024.



Professor Peter Katjavivi (left) presented with a Certificate of Distinction from SADC-PF President, Roger Mancienne ahead of the start of the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly and Related meetings in Geneva, Switzerland.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi during his last address at the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland in October 2024.



Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi was elected as Speaker of the National Assembly in 2015 taking over from Dr. Theo Ben Gurirab.

Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi receiving a gift as a token of appreciation for his dedicated service to the SADC-PF during the 56th Plenary Assembly hosted by the Parliament of Zambia in Livingstone, Zambia in 2024.





Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi honored by the Rector of the University of Havana, who conferred upon him the status of Distinguished Visitor in recognition of his notable contributions across diverse fields of education and political sciences.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi (left) in discussion with Speaker of the National Assembly of Zimbabwe, Advocate Jacob Mudenda during the 55th SADC-PF Plenary Assembly held in Angola in 2024.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi (right) with Danish Prime Minister Mette Ruttee during the latter's visit to Namibia in 2023.



The Speaker of the National Assembly, Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, met with Finnish President, H.E. Sauli Niinistö who visited Namibia in 2023.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi with United Kingdom House of Commons Speaker, Rt. Hon. Lindsay Hoyle (left) at the 75th Commonwealth Day in London, United Kingdom in 2024.

“As parliament we have an important role to play to promote economic growth. It is my wish that collaborations of this magnitude translate into something tangible and open new avenues for growth and expansion, particularly on the African continent”

Honourable Prof. Katjavivi
On the occasion of the 9TH BRICS Parliamentary Forum (BRICS PF)
27-29 SEPTEMBER 2023
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA



Cardiff University awarded the Speaker of the National Assembly, Professor Peter Katjavivi, an Honorary Fellowship in recognition of his remarkable contributions to politics, education, and society in 2023.



Late President Hage Geingob (left), Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi (centre) and former Chairperson of the National Council, Hon. Margaret Mensah Williams during the official opening of parliament in 2018.

“Effective governance is important in providing transparent and accountable management and oversight of any entity. The Commission’s role within the Namibia’s democratic system means that it must uphold the highest standards of ethics and governance”

Honourable Peter Katjavivi at the launch of the Electoral Commission of Namibia (strategic plan 2022/2023 – 2026/2027 27 June 2022



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi in the company of fellow Namibian MPs, met the Germany delegation of MPs on the sidelines of the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland in 2024. During the meeting Katjavivi thanked the German Bundestag for having availed experts to offer a research training to Namibian parliamentary researchers in 2020 following the signing of cooperation agreements between the two legislatures.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi held a bilateral meeting with the Indian Parliament delegation led by Speaker, Hon. Om Birla on the margins of the 149th IPU General Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland in 2024.



Speaker of National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi with Global women and children’s rights advocate, Mrs. Graca Machel during the latter’s visit to Namibia in 2016 to support nutrition and children’s rights and ensuring their implementation.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi with President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba during the launch of his late wife’s repacked memoir, entitled “Undisciplined heart”



Speaker of the National Assembly, Professor Peter Katjavivi paid a courtesy call to revered Finnish statesman, Martti Ahtisaari during his visit to the Finnish parliament in 2017.



President of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, H.E. Dennis Francis pictured with Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi. Francis who visited the Namibian parliament in 2024, addressed a joint sitting. He visited Namibia as part of his outreach activities to various UN member countries, focusing on the need to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). His visit came ahead of the appointment of Namibia and Germany as co-hosts of the Summit of the Future (SOTF) at the UN in September in 2024.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi was conferred with a honorary doctorate degree by the University of Bath in London recently. Katjavivi, the founding vice chancellor and one of the pioneers of the University of Namibia was honoured for his immense contribution to higher education in Namibia and the SADC region. Bath University is one of the prestigious universities in Europe and ranks among the top ten universities in the United Kingdom.

“Our responsibility lies with both environmental conservation and safeguarding the interest of human beings and their livelihoods, in harmony. The Earth is not ours; it is a treasure we hold in trust for future generations. To achieve this, we need to continue to search for sustainable ways in which nature and human beings can co-exist peacefully.”

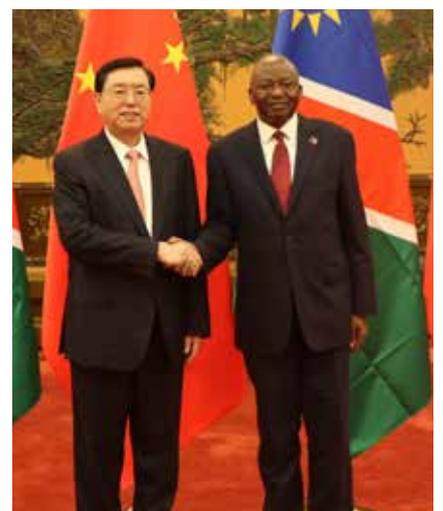
*Honourable Prof. Katjavivi, International Patron, Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) On the occasion of the handover to relocate Cheetahs to India
19 September 2022*



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi (right) with the Finnish counterpart, Hon. Maria Lohela, during a reciprocal visit in 2018, aimed to deepen already existing ties between the two legislative bodies



Speaker of the National Assembly, Professor Peter Katjavivi (right) with his Hungarian counterpart, Hon. László Kövér. Hon. Kövér hosted Katjavivi in Budapest, Hungary in 2019.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi (right) and Chairman of the National People's Congress of China his Excellency, Lli Zhanshu in 2016.

PHOTO GALLERY



PHOTO GALLERY



PHOTO GALLERY



NOTABLE QUOTES

“Corruption undermines meaningful development that we can promote, both government, Parliament and Civil societies, all of us have to work in partnership to root out corruption”

*Interview with Peter Clottey of Voice of America during his term as chief whip of the ruling SWAPO party in National Assembly
07 December 2011*

“I look forward to working with all of you in this House. I count on your support in discharging our common duties in the best interest of our nation and people we are here to serve,”

*Honourable Prof. Katjavivi in his maiden speech upon election as Speaker.
23 March 2015*

“This book is not only a reflection of her life but also of the deep love she had for Namibia and people of this country”

*Honourable Prof. Katjavivi at the launch of the memoir dedicated to his late wife, Jane Katjavivi, titled “Undisciplined Heart”
05 October 2024*

“The willingness to serve and the whole idea of continuing to serve is not necessarily due to the fact that one has not done this and that. It is the willingness on the part of the individual concern in term of records, before independence and after independence. My contribution and my records are as a patriot in terms of the contribution I have made to national reconstruction and development of Namibia,”

*Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi during an interview with The Villager newspaper,
20 September 2019.*

“All of you should pour your phenomenal energy and talent into the collective cause of nation building so that all Namibia’s national undertakings have flourishing results. As you may be aware, one of a University’s key roles is to produce and supply key policy makers, experts and personnel for national development”

*Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, as Chancellor of Namibia University of Science and Technology at the Academic Welcome for the Year 2020
27th January 2020*

“This is a document that has guided us so well, so far, that will be there to ensure that Namibia continues as an independent nation in peace and stability”

*Honourable Peter Katjavivi on the reunion organised for the remaining members of the Constitutional Committee in Commemoration of Constitution Day
08 February 2020*



“We designed our National Constitution in particular, to ensure that peace and stability are cherished and maintained in the country. The Namibian Constitution upholds equality for all, the strengthening of institutions that cater for human rights and the rule of law, as well as sustainable development which will ensure that all citizens enjoy fair and equal treatment”

*Honourable Prof. Katjavivi
On the occasion of the 138th Assembly of the IPU Assembly and related meetings.
25 March 2018,
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND*