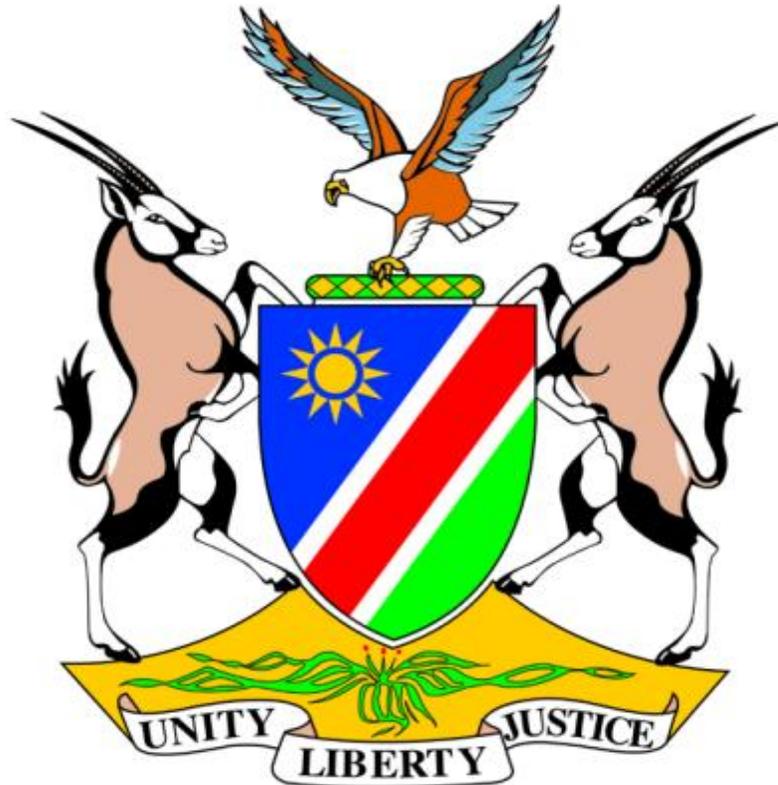


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR HAGE GOTTFRIED
GEINGOB, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, TO
THE 3rd AFRICA-INDIA FORUM SUMMIT**

29 OCTOBER 2015

NEW DELHI

(Check Against Delivery)

**Your Excellency Narendra Modi,
Prime Minister of the Republic of
India;**

Majesties;

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen

**On behalf of the Government of
Republic of Namibia and on my
own behalf, I would like to thank
Prime Minister Modi, the
government and people of the**

Republic of India for their warm hospitality extended to my delegation and I.

Director of Ceremonies,

Today's Summit, which takes place in the spirit of non-alignment of the Bandung Conference, is an acknowledgement of the shared history between India and Africa. It is no surprise that we continue to enjoy the support of a nation that

supported our cause during the struggle against colonialism.

The solidarity of the people of India with the people of Africa is epitomized by Mahatma Gandhi, who traversed the streets of Johannesburg on foot, in order to champion the cause of oppressed people in South Africa and Africa as a whole.

Given the historic linkages I have referred to, it is appropriate that we are meeting at this platform for the third time. In this unipolar world, it is critical for countries like Namibia to deepen existing relationships with countries such as India. We need India in a world where the voices of developing countries are often not heard. India understands Africa's past due to its own experience with colonialism. India understands

Africa's present and future and has proven that it will always defend Africa's interest at international forums.

With India's support, Namibia managed to gain Independence. We built strong Governance and Macro-Economic fundamentals that have been lauded by international experts and rating agencies. We now have the task of addressing Socio-Economic

challenges such as income inequality, unemployment, housing, sanitation and food security. This is what we refer to as the second phase of the struggle. Now that we have entered this second phase of the struggle, we are keen to join forces with our historic allies who supported us during the first phase of the struggle. Hence the importance of our gathering here today, which is confirmed by the

high attendance of African countries.

Today India is one of the fastest growing countries on the planet. India provides food security for its people, which is not a minor achievement being the world's second most populous nation. A nation that can feed itself is a stable nation that presents a strong foundation for economic takeoff. Indeed the Indian

economy has diversified led by a vibrant information communications technology sector, world-class health services and high quality educational institutions, including vocational training. India's development trickled down to the basic social needs, including affordable housing and sanitation. We salute India and the Indian people for these significant achievements.

Director of Ceremonies,

Africa is resource rich, but most Africans are poor. Africa consumes what it does not produce, and produces what it does not consume. Most of Africa's resources are exported in the raw form. India can play a key role in changing this picture. India understands what it takes to transform from the export of raw materials to local value addition. In

the spirit of South-South cooperation, Africa can only learn from the success and failures of India, by adapting the Indian experience. It is through meetings like these that common positions can be thrashed out in a conducive environment without the presence of anti-development forces.

The newly established BRICS Development Bank is a step in the right direction. We are pleased to note that India will have the presidency of this important bank during the inception phase. It is our assumption that BRICS will not be based on the stringent lending conditions of the Bretton Woods Institutions. Many African countries have graduated from being classified as low income to middle income countries. With this

“improved classification” however comes the challenge of accessing affordable financing. We therefore have high expectations that the BRICS development bank will follow a different approach in developmental financing.

I want to close off by quoting Mahatma Ghandi, who said, “*You must be the change you wish to see in the world.*” It is therefore up to us here today to effect the

necessary change in the world that will ensure our sustained development and the eventual economic emancipation of our people. It is us who must find opportunities to do business. It is us who must develop new innovations, relevant to our needs. It is us who must develop our own narrative, fight poverty and bring economic liberation to our people.

I Thank You.