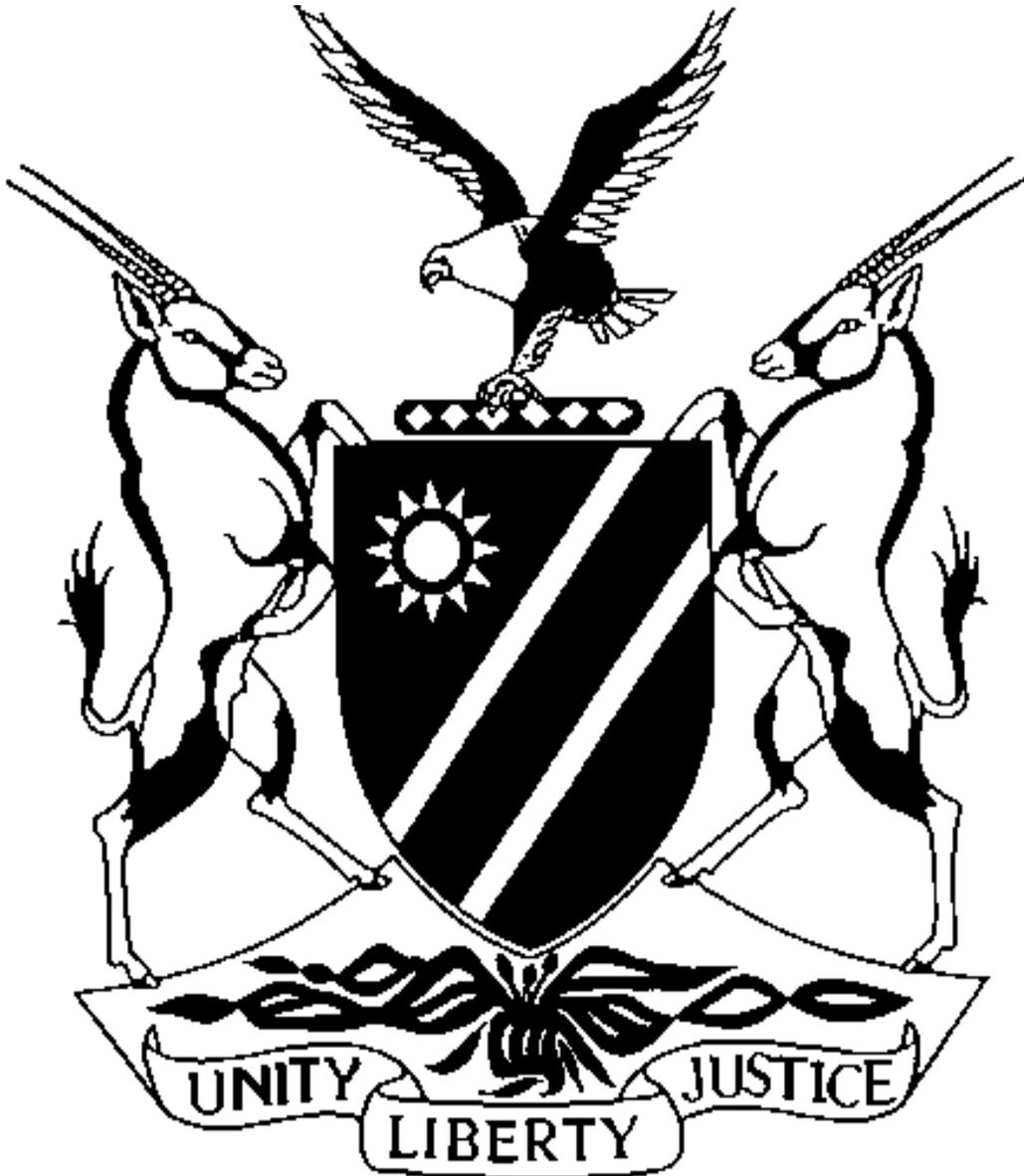


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**REMARKS BY HON. MAUREEN HINDA, MP, DEPUTY
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND
COOPERATION, TO THE MEETING WITH CANADIAN
AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION, 1 MARCH
2016**

Honourable Chairperson of the Association
Honourable Members of Parliament
The Deputy High Commissioner of Canada to Namibia
Members of the Delegation

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation. As you may know, Hon. Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation is out of the country on official business, but has requested me to convey her best wishes for the success of your visit. Your visit today is, indeed, timely as it provides us an opportunity to reflect on the longstanding bonds of friendship between the our countries.

Canada and Namibia bilateral relations were cemented during Namibia's struggle for national independence. In this regard, I wish to point out that Canada played an important role during the negotiations for the implementation of UN resolution 435 which eventually led to the attainment of Namibia's independence in March 1990. The Canadian Government contributed to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) through the participation of a contingent of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and after independence by assisting the Namibian Police Force to establish its rules and forensics units. Collaboration between the two Police Forces continued and I am happy to confirm that a delegation from the Namibian Police Force undertook a benchmarking visit to Canada in December 2015, during which a decision was

taken that members of the Namibian Police Force will receive training at the headquarters of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Toronto, and that a member of the RCMP will be seconded to the Namibian Police in Windhoek to provide training and enhance capacity-building.

Honourable Members,

Similarly, a delegation from the Prime Minister's Office undertook a benchmarking visit to Canada in December 2014 to exchange views on issues such as conditions of service, grading (of positions), salaries and benefits as well as best practices. It is therefore a demonstration of this longstanding friendship that you have paid a visit to our country to continue strengthening relations between our two countries. I am therefore happy to welcome you today. I am also particularly happy that your visit allowed you to have substantive discussions with your Namibian counterparts at the National Assembly and the National Council. As members of the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Union (CPU), Namibia and Canada can and will continue to collaborate on issues of mutual concern such as climate change, desertification, as well as transnational issues such as the combating of terrorism, wildlife trafficking, and human trafficking.

Over the last few years, Canadian companies have increasingly invested in Namibia's mining sector. Companies such as Dundee Precious Metals, B2Gold, Valencia and many others are active participants in the

Namibian companies. Namibia appreciates these growing economic partnerships between our two countries. At the same time, Namibia is aware that the growing economic relations also need to be consolidated through strengthening of bilateral relations in many other areas. I am happy to note that the Namibian High Commissioner to Canada and the Canadian High Commissioner to Namibia are providing an important link to strengthen such bilateral relations. I can just add here that, through the hard work of the staff of our High Commission and Namibia's Honorary Consul in Canada, Hon. Walter McLean, business persons and captains of industry from Canada participated in the High Commission's trade mission to Namibia in October 2015, whereas the planning for this year's trade mission is already at an advanced stage. Similarly, High Commissioner Andjaba used his attendance of the Christmas dinner hosted by the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada to follow-up on issues of bilateral concern, particularly with regard to collaboration in the fields of education and energy in an effort to elevate the bilateral relations between our two countries. I look forward to working with your Association as well as our counterparts in strengthening relationship.

As you may be aware, our two countries have signed the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement in 2010. I understand Canada has fulfilled the ratification process but Namibia is still having a moratorium on these agreements and will finalise a national policy on double taxation agreements in due course. We will work with the relevant

stakeholders to ensure that the outstanding work is finalised.

In conclusion, I want once again, to, express our appreciation for this short, but important visit that demonstrates the lasting bonds of friendship between the people of Canada and Namibia. I thank you.