

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**VOTE OF THANKS BY H.E. DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE CLOSING OF THE 37TH SADC
ORDINARY SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND
GOVERNMENT**

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the SADC Heads of State and Government, and indeed on my own behalf, I am honoured to express our collective thanks to you Comrade President Jacob Zuma, the Government and the people of the Republic of South Africa for the traditional warm hospitality extended to us and our delegations since our arrival in this historic City of

We are grateful for Your Majesty's hands-on approach on issues of economic development in the SADC Region as guided by the appropriate theme of the 36th SADC Ordinary Summit of Heads of State, which is, *"Resource Mobilization for Investment in Sustainable Energy Infrastructure for inclusive SADC Industrialisation and for Prosperity of the Region."*

I equally wish to take this opportunity to congratulate H.E. Mr. Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, for assuming the Chairpersonship of SADC. Your Excellency,

It is very clear that this year's theme builds on the recent Summit themes and focuses on the implementation of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap in order to accelerate economic growth and development in the region.

As was alluded to by Dr. Songwe of UNECA during her remarks, there is an increased recognition in other regions of Africa and beyond the borders of Africa, that SADC is a cohesive, well-run Regional Economic Bloc, that could set the tone for African wide

growth is a policy choice. Therefore, whether it is industrialization, financial sector deepening, promotion of the blue economy, or any other matter, let us be inclusive in our approach. We in Namibia believe that inclusivity spells peace and harmony, whereas exclusivity spells conflict and disaster. Our development must continue to be people centered and homegrown.

To meet these expectations, it is of paramount importance that we constantly demonstrate our commitment to the ideals of

transition at a party level, which once again demonstrates that inner party democracy is alive and at work in parties of former liberation movements. We wish the people of Angola well with the general elections slated for the 23rd of August this year.

Similarly we are noting that the President of Botswana is leaving us at a young age. We are going to miss his ,cannot allow him to retire at such a young age. We will, therefore, from time to time call on your wisdom in our quest to refining processes, systems and institutions

SADC. In this regard, I extend my kind invitation to Your Majesty and Excellencies to come to Namibia for the 38th SADC Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government in 2018. The people of Namibia are look forward to welcoming you to the land of the brave.

I thank you