



# FORUM DEUTSCHSPRACHIGER NAMIBIER

## FORUM OF GERMAN-SPEAKING NAMIBIANS

1-5 Fidel Castro Straße, Tel: +264 61 222 609, P.O. Box: 9779, Windhoek, Namibia  
[www.forum-deutsch-namibier.org](http://www.forum-deutsch-namibier.org)

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

### **“STATE OF THE NATION” ADDRESS**

Honourable Mrs Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, current Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation and SWAPO Presidential Candidate for the 2024 national elections, Mrs Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary-General of SWAPO, Mr Elliott Mbako, Regional Coordinator for SWAPO Khomas Region, Mrs Freya Gruenhagen, Director of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Director of Ceremonies Desmond Amunyela, Members and Friends of the Forum of German Speaking Namibians, media representatives, ladies and gentlemen – all Protocol observed. We would like to welcome you all to this auspicious occasion!

My name is Harald Hecht and I am the proud chairman of the Forum of German Speaking Namibians.

The main goal of the Forum is as follows:

**The Forum of German-Speaking Namibians, motivated by their civil responsibility, their love and loyalty to Namibia, and being an integral part of the multicultural, multilingual Namibian society, commits itself to participate in an effective and meaningful way in the public life in Namibia and thereby contribute to the well-being of the country and all its people.**

We feel extremely honoured to being able to engage with Honourable Mrs Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah here tonight and regard this opportunity as afforded as a special measure of appreciation by you for which we are very grateful and feel very honoured! Thank you very much for being here tonight Honourable Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah!

I would briefly like to reflect on the last 33 years since Independence and would like to start with some of the **commendable achievements we can all be proud of as a Nation:**

1. Namibia is governed by a world-famous and well-respected and recognised constitution which is based on a separation of powers by the executive, legislative and judicial branches. Namibia was the first African country to incorporate protection of the environment into its constitution.
2. Namibia has created the enabling conditions that link economic incentives with environmental management and wildlife conservation.
3. Namibia ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> in press freedom among 180 countries worldwide and number one in Africa! The so-called Windhoek Declaration was adopted thirty years ago.
4. Namibia is one of the most peaceful, safest and also politically stable countries in Africa.
5. Regular presidential, general assembly, regional and local elections are being held with transition of power and the President of the country is restricted to two terms in office.
6. Currently Namibia is being identified as a potential global player in the worldwide energy transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy in the international de-carbonisation strategy. At same time recent oil and gas discoveries have put Namibia also into the global limelight. These apparent contradictions have to be managed, however but we are confident that this can be done with due professional care and skill.

*Vorstandsmitglieder:*

*H. Hecht (Vorsitzender), B. Herma, M. Nambela, H Schneider-Waterberg, C. von Blottnitz, R. von Hase, M. von Wietersheim*  
FORUM OF GERMAN-SPEAKING NAMIBIANS – NEDBANK Swakopmund Branch 461052– Acc no 11990475816  
SWIFT CODE: NEDSNANX



# FORUM DEUTSCHSPRACHIGER NAMIBIER

## FORUM OF GERMAN-SPEAKING NAMIBIANS

1-5 Fidel Castro Straße, Tel: +264 61 222 609, P.O. Box: 9779, Windhoek, Namibia  
[www.forum-deutsch-namibier.org](http://www.forum-deutsch-namibier.org)

### **And here are the biggest challenges for Namibia:**

1. Structural inequality. Effect of colonialism and Apartheid not mitigated in 33 years of independent Namibia. Gini Coefficient, German Speaking Namibians. Poverty and unemployment, food insecurity are increasing daily and rapidly which is tantamount to an Infringement of the Social Contract which we have in terms of Article 95 of our Constitution and which deals with the “promotion of welfare of the people”
2. Economic vs political independence
3. Health and Education ministries are seriously compromised and deserve immediate intensive care and a bold rescue plan
4. Dignity of the people lost. No regular water supply, no access to toilets. The measure and character of a Nation is adjudged in how we treat the poorest in our society. I think we agree that we have failed as a NATION – all of us here included.
5. Corruption and mismanagement / lack of expertise and basic knowledge / cadre deployment. Critical appointments not being made based on merit.
6. Ease of doing business
7. Reintroduce and walk the talk re National Reconciliation
8. Political maturity re handling of coalitions
9. Growing disillusionment by the local business sector

### **Master plan for the future:**

1. All Namibians to join hands in the true sense of One Namibia One Nation. **A further key objective of the Forum of German-Speaking Namibians is to contribute towards promoting Namibia as an attractive business location and may – should the occasion arise – act as mediator between local and foreign enterprises and institutions.** I can tell you from personal experience from the last 18 months that significantly more and more foreign investors are looking at Namibia! So we are doing a lot right still!
2. Independent Namibia is now 33 years old and is well-positioned from a political stability viewpoint and coupled with the relevant degree of political maturity and political willpower to embrace and implement all the exciting new developments in inter alia the green hydrogen, oil and gas and lithium sectors. We should now strive for the highest degree of prudence, courage as well as maximum accountability and transparency to succeed as a Nation in implementing these promising projects to the benefit of all Namibians and with maximum local content where possible.
3. What we lack clearly is the required capacity in a lot of sectors, so Capacity Development in the very short term will become a key objective. But at least now we have scope and hope for our young Namibians in the Diaspora, so some of the capacity required in a future Namibia can be filled by our highly skilled and trained Namibians whom we have currently “exported” overseas. Many young Namibians in the Diaspora and prompted by their love and loyalty for Namibia are waiting for a chance to return to the land of the brave. It is up to all of us here tonight to join hands and provide the appropriate platforms to facilitate the return of our young Namibians!

#### *Vorstandsmitglieder:*

*H. Hecht (Vorsitzender), B. Herma, M. Nambela, H Schneider-Waterberg, C. von Blottnitz, R. von Hase, M. von Wietersheim*  
FORUM OF GERMAN-SPEAKING NAMIBIANS – NEDBANK Swakopmund Branch 461052– Acc no 11990475816  
SWIFT CODE: NEDSNANX



# FORUM DEUTSCHSPRACHIGER NAMIBIER

## FORUM OF GERMAN-SPEAKING NAMIBIANS

1-5 Fidel Castro Straße, Tel: +264 61 222 609, P.O. Box: 9779, Windhoek, Namibia  
[www.forum-deutsch-namibier.org](http://www.forum-deutsch-namibier.org)

4. Activate Sovereign Wealth Fund, also known as Welwitschia Fund as soon as possible. Restore the dignity of our people by providing basic human needs like housing, regular water, electricity and sanitary services. Maybe now is the time to consider implementing BIG – the Basic Income Grant – as a short term measure from royalties, taxes and levies received from the new industry sectors of green hydrogen oil and gas and minerals extraction in general and paid into the Sovereign Wealth Fund. We have to maintain and sustain the social peace in Namibia which is currently in real jeopardy.
5. Restore investor confidence.
  - a. Zero tolerance on corruption. Another Fishrot scandal would be fatal to the trust of the international investor community. Your well-known stance of zero tolerance on corruption, Honourable Nandi-Ndaitwah, is therefore an important first and critical step in the right direction.
  - b. Provide certainty in terms of NEEEB and Investment Promotion Bill and investors status and permits
  - c. Improve on the ease of doing business. Increase and enhance the capacity of NIPDB.
  - d. Market Namibia as a tax heaven for wealthy individuals where no inheritance tax, donations tax or capital gains tax applies.
  - e. Serious turnaround strategies for a lot of parastatals. The loss of Agribank of NAD 250m for the last financial year as recently reported in the media – thanks to freedom of press- is just one sad example.
  - f. Leave the business environment to the private sector with minimal political interference and let economic market forces prevail. The State of Namibia - through the elected government of the day - to provide the regulatory frameworks and ensure the maintenance of social and economic peace in terms of our Constitution.
6. Strive for economic independence! Why not? Energy self-sufficiency would be an important start.
7. Role of FDN – civil responsibility. We cannot win elections for any political party. But we are ready to take up our place in the Namibian house. And this is why I think that tonight's theme is very appropriate:

***“harnessing each other's competitive advantages for a better Namibia”.***

Through unity in diversity we will be stronger as a Nation. Changing of mindsets is required and we should not get distracted too much by past events. Let's go forward together by looking back and learning. The Forum is there to partner anybody and everybody who wants to take Namibia forward.

Namibia is all we have!

One Namibia One Nation!

I thank you!

Harald Hecht

*Chairperson – Forum of German-Speaking Namibians*

*Vorstandsmitglieder:*

*H. Hecht (Vorsitzender), B. Herma, M. Nambela, H Schneider-Waterberg, C. von Blottnitz, R. von Hase, M. von Wietersheim*  
FORUM OF GERMAN-SPEAKING NAMIBIANS – NEDBANK Swakopmund Branch 461052– Acc no 11990475816  
SWIFT CODE: NEDSNANX