



Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah
President of the Republic of Namibia

The Year That Was

*A year of democratic voices,
shared journeys and renewed
hope as Namibia steps into the
festive season*

“Our national story is extraordinary, and it grows richer when told from every Namibian’s perspective.”

Democracy is alive in Namibia. This year, as Namibians, our voices have been heard. We may hold different views, yet each voice has found space in our democratic discourse. This is the Namibia I hoped for when we returned from exile in 1989. The Namibia we dreamed of as we prepared to take over the administration of our country, believing that all its people would prosper in their noble pursuits.

We continue to celebrate national achievements, one after another, demonstrating excellence across various fields. In sports, our spirits have been renewed. The ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2026 will showcase the finest up-and-coming talent from the participating sides, and will be played from 15 January to 6 February in 2026. This momentum affirms the urgent need to strengthen the support systems that sustain athletic success. One remarkable quality about us as Namibians is that when we believe in something, we rally together. The private sector has stepped forward to invest in world-class sports infrastructure; a crucial step in advancing my vision of a Namibia where young people productively use their talents to drive national development.

As we enter the festive season, I encourage you to explore our holiday destinations and enjoy time with your loved ones. Throughout the year, we have welcomed visitors from all over the world as we expand our MICE industry, and we look forward to receiving them again as they return for more of the Namibian experience.

We are ready to celebrate this season together. As your Commander-in-Chief, I expect a safe and joyful festive period for all as we enjoy the serenity of Namibia's open skies

and vast, peaceful landscapes. These moments remind me of my childhood in Onamutai Village, where we watched the moon shine through clear skies and listened to timeless Namibian folklore.

Our national story is extraordinary, and it grows richer when told from every Namibian's perspective. This is the beauty of our democracy and the freedoms it guarantees. These stories come alive in family gatherings. I encourage you to make time for your families, strengthen your bonds, and nurture relationships, for healthy families build a loving and united nation. Visit one another, exchange gifts, and uplift each other.

The recent regional and local authority elections reaffirmed that every voice matters. I look forward to the work we will do together with local authorities, who remain closest to the daily lives of our people and our esteemed visitors.

As you celebrate this festive season, remember that your leadership is with you every step of the way. Democracy allows us to live authentically and achieve our ambitions — the ambitions that brought me here today as your President. I am inspired by the determination of our young people, who continue to show that what once seemed unattainable is now within reach. The barriers that once hindered progress are being dismantled.

While this is a time of celebration, it is also a moment for reflection. As your Head of State, I will continue to listen; your dreams are valid, and Namibia stands ready to support you in pursuing them, so that one day you may enjoy the abundant fruits of your efforts.

For now, make the most of this season. ❖