



**REMARKS BY**

**HONOURABLE PROF. PETER H. KATJAVIVI, MP**

**SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**AT THE**

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup>  
PARLIAMENT**

**TUESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2021**

**PARLIAMENT CHAMBERS  
WINDHOEK  
KHOMAS REGION**

**Your Excellency, Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia,**

**Your Excellency, Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia,**

**Your Lordship, Peter Shivute, Chief Justice of the Republic of Namibia,**

**Right Honourable Prime Minister, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Honourable Lukas Sinimbo Muha, Chairperson of the National Council,**

**Honourable McHenry Venaani, Leader of the Official Opposition, Honourable Members of Parliament,**

**Fellow Citizens,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I welcome you all back Honourable Members to our chamber and in particular to this joint sitting of the Parliament which signals the commencement of our parliamentary year. Today, the 9 February as we commence with our official business, we also celebrate the adoption of the Namibian Constitution on this day 31 years ago by the Founding Fathers and Mothers of our Republic. The Ombudsman, Adv. John Walters send a copy of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia for each Member of Parliament in celebration of this important day. As we move on we will look at better ways to keep the spirit of our constitution

alive and how best we can celebrate this historic day in the annals of our history.

**Honourable Members,**

Namibia and the rest of the world is faced with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has affected our economies, the livelihoods of our people as well as the usual ways of doing things. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries have adopted rules and regulations to curb the spread of this deadly virus and Namibia is NO exception. We as law makers and leaders of this nation are equally duty bound to respect and obey these rules, regulations and protocols to avoid the further spread of the virus.

Many of our compatriots, comrades, family members and friends have succumbed to COVID-19. In particular, we think of leaders such as Hon. Dirk Mudge, Hon. Mandela Kapere, Honourable Cleophas Mutjavikua and many others, both here at home and across SADC, Africa and the world at large. I will therefore request that we all rise for a minute of silence in remembrance of them.

**Minute of Silence!!!!**

**Honourable Members,**

In order to reduce the number of people in and around Parliament today and in consultation with H. E the President, a decision was made in terms of Rule 124 to allow the President to address us remotely.

Rule 15 (d) of the Standing Rules and Orders of the National Assembly calls for the Head of State to officially open the Parliament at the first session every year. This occasion is therefore for the President of the Republic to formally open the parliamentary year.

Without further ado, I now kindly request you all to join me as I give the floor to H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia to deliver his message signaling the start of the 2021 parliamentary year.

Your Excellency!