

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

BY

**RIGHT HONORABLE, DR SAARA KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA, PRIME MINISTER OF
THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, DELIVERED AT THE GLOBAL ANTI-CORRUPTION AND
INTEGRITY FORUM**

HIGH LEVEL OPENING

26 - 27 MARCH IN PARIS, FRANCE

Honourable guests, distinguished delegates,

Good morning!

1. It is an immense honour to address you today as we reflect on our respective countries' commitment to integrity in the Public Sector.

Since its independence in 1990, Namibia has made significant progress in strengthening measures to combat corruption and promote effective governance. This progress has been achieved through the enhancement of processes, systems, and institutions within the public sector.

2. To put country-specific anti-corruption milestones into context: In 2003, the Anti-Corruption Act 2003 (Act No. 8 of 2003) was passed and came into effect in 2005. Subsequently, in 2006, the Anti-Corruption Commission was established, with the mandate to investigate allegations of corrupt practices, educate the public on the dangers of corruption, and take corruption-preventative measures in both public and private sectors. Since its inception, the Commission has submitted 768 dockets to the Prosecutor-General's Office, with 343 cases having been concluded in the Court by the Financial Year 2022/2023. The country also enacted Whistleblower and Witness Protection Acts and established an independent Financial Intelligence Centre.

3. Various initiatives have been implemented to enhance the efficiency of judiciary management systems in the country and strengthen the integrity and transparency of the Judiciary. For instance, court-connected mediation has been available in the High Court of Namibia since 2014.

Mediation, a form of alternative dispute resolution, aims to resolve matters quickly, cost-effectively, and efficiently.

Additionally, Superior Courts have practice directives in place to manage cases promptly once they are placed on the court rolls. Judges oversee the management of cases, and they set timelines for their resolution from inception to finalization.

4. Ladies and gentlemen,

New and evolving challenges are emerging. One of the most pressing challenges we face is the increasing use of technology in corruption schemes. Cybercrime, and other digital threats are becoming more sophisticated and complex to detect.

We should, therefore, remain vigilant and work together to harmonize our laws, share information, and coordinate enforcement efforts.

Furthermore, increased transparency, robust regulatory frameworks, and enhanced monitoring mechanisms are crucial to prevent and detect illicit financial activities through which large amounts of resources are siphoned out of mainly natural resources endowed countries.

Many of these countries, most of which are developing countries, a large part of whose populations are poor, are forced as a result of this into high and unsustainable debt.

Sharing capacity for strengthening anti-corruption measures, including in the area of strengthening the governance framework, enhancing financial intelligence capabilities, promoting information sharing and holding perpetrators accountable are vital steps in curbing illicit financial flows.

Lastly, Namibia remains steadfast in its commitment to combating corruption and promoting integrity in all spheres of its society.

We are thankful for the opportunity to share our experiences and insights at this Forum, and we look forward to collaborating with our partners to create a more just and equitable world.

I look forward to a fruitful discussion during this Forum.

I thank you!