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The President has also appointed the Governor of the Bank of Namibia, Tom Alweendo, as Director General of the National Planning Commission, NPC. The NPC's post became vacant when its Director General, Professor Peter Katjavivi, was appointed as a member of the National Assembly, among the six Presidential nominees.

The appointments came four days after the appointment of the Cabinet, which was inaugurated on Sunday evening at State House. At that event, President Hifikepunye Pohamba said that the two posts would be filled at a later stage.

"I now have the honour to inform the nation that I have appointed Mr Tom Alweendo as Director General of the National Planning Commission and Lt-General, Lucas Hangula, (retired) as Director General of the Namibia Central Intelligence Organization,"

**Terms of office of the Governors**

Name	Nationality	Position Held	Beginning	End
Dr WL Bernard	Dutch	Governor	16/07/1990	31/08/1991
Mr E Karlsson	Swedish	Deputy Governor	16/07/1990	31/08/1991
		Acting Governor	01/09/1991	30/04/1992
		Governor	25/11/1992	31/12/1993
Dr J Ahmad	Malaysian	Governor	01/01/1994	31/12/1996
Mr TK Alweendo	Namibian	Deputy Governor	01/01/1993	31/12/1996
		Governor	01/01/1997	To Date
Mr LS Ipangelwa	Namibian	Deputy Governor	01/01/1997	30/07/2002
Mr P Hartmann	Namibian	Deputy Governor	01/08/2002	To Date

Expatriates from friendly countries first governed the Bank of Namibia. In 1993, the first Namibian, Mr Tom K Alweendo, was appointed as the Deputy Governor, and subsequently as the Governor on 1 January 1997, the position he still holds to date. Mr Paul Hartmann deputizes him.

said President Pohamba in a one page statement.

To allay fears and skepticism among the financial markets, the President also immediately appointed Mr Ipumbu Shiimi

to replace Alweendo. Shiimi has been Alweendo's right-hand man who has served as Assistant Governor of the Bank of Namibia for several years until his appointment on

Thursday.

Both Hangula and Alweendo were immediately sworn in by Chief Justice Peter Shivute at State House. The President commended and congratulated

the new appointees, saying that he looked forward to working with them for the benefit of Namibia.

Hangula was first appointed as NCIO's Director General in 2005, shortly after President Pohamba was sworn in as Namibia's second President. He was previously Inspector General of the Namibian Police.

He is the second Director General of NCIO. He replaced Peter Tshirumbu, the first Director General of NCIO, who moved from NCIO in 2005 to head the then newly created Ministry of Safety and Security before he retired a few years ago.

Alweendo has been with the Bank of Namibia since 1993 and was appointed as Governor in January 1997. He first served as Deputy Governor of the Bank as an understudy to Jafer Ahmad, a Malaysian banker who later left the bank to serve as Managing Director of Air Namibia.

The Central Bank of Namibia has the sole statutory right to print and issue Namibian Dollar banknotes and coins. Shiimi takes over the reign at BoN at a time when it steps up measures against counterfeit currency.

Last year, Alweendo warned that currency counterfeiting, if not prevented and dealt with accordingly, could pose a significant risk to the economy and could lead to a loss of public confidence in the dependability of the Namibian Dollar because the confidence placed in a currency was ultimately dependent on its stability and security. In 2008, the incidence of Namibian counterfeit was recorded at 4.5 parts per million notes in circulation. Compared to other countries, Namibia does not have a serious problem with counterfeit.

"Nonetheless," warned Alweendo, "a steep increase in the occurrence of false currency in this country is cause for concern."

**President**

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Banda, DRC President Joseph Kabila, Mozambique's Armando Guebuza, Botswana's Lt General Ian Khama and Congo Brazzaville's Denis Sassou Ngwesso. Cuba sent its Vice President, Esteban Lazo Hernandez.

Among the former Heads of State who attended the occasion were Zambia's Kenneth Kaunda, Botswana's Quett Masire and Festus Mogae, Finland's Martti Ahtisaari and Mozambique's Joachim Chisano. The widow of Angola's first President, Maria Eugenia Neto, also attended. She was married to Angola's first President, the late Antonio Agostinho Neto. The wife of former South African President Zanele Mbeki also attended.

Most of these countries supported SWAPO during Namibia's liberation struggle. The Frontline States, among them Angola and Zambia, suffered the most as they were constantly attacked militarily by the then apartheid regime of South Africa for hosting and supporting Namibia's freedom fighters under SWAPO.

"We will forever remember

our heroes and heroines who inspired us to fight for freedom and independence," said President Pohamba. "We fought many battles. We crossed many rivers of blood and we won a decisive victory on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1990.

"I am humbled to see so many of our friends, brothers and sisters who represent the international community on this very special occasion. Our nation will forever be grateful to the fact that Namibia gained her independence under the banner of international solidarity, freedom and justice.

"We value the diplomatic and material support we received at our time of need. I am aware that some nationals of the then Frontline Line States lost their lives as a result of the war for national liberation.

"This, notwithstanding, our brothers and sisters stood firm and never wavered. We will always be grateful for the invaluable support we received from them."

The president committed his government to improving the standard living of the people, saying that his government would continue to invest heavily in education, health, agriculture, housing, infrastructure, rural development, tourism and other development



Founding President Sam Nujoma with some of the military attaches accredited to Namibia during an NDF march along Independence Avenue last Saturday. The march and military display were part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary.

projects as outlined in NDP3, (Third National Development Plan.)

He said Namibia's entire spectrum of agriculture should be explored and harnessed to its fullest extent in order to achieve food security. The private and public sectors, as well as research institutions, must become fully involved in the quest to achieve that objective.

"Therefore," he said, "wherever there is arable land, a river, a dam, a borehole or a well that can yield enough water for cultivation efforts, such resources must be utilized to boost food production.

"I have no doubt that a successful agricultural sector will go a long way in addressing unemployment among our citizens. It will also address the socio-economic plight of our peasants."

The President also addressed the needs of the people in rural areas, where the majority of the people live, eking out a living on marginal lands without the necessary tools to engage in meaningful modern agricul-

tural economy.

"Their activities have been reduced to subsistence agriculture," he said. "This difficult existence is compounded by the absence of public services and social amenities such as water, electricity, housing, healthcare and education facilities in some areas.

"This state of affairs in rural areas is duplicated in informal settlements on the periphery of many of our towns and cities. I have visited many of these areas and believe that drastic steps must be taken by our government to find a durable solution to this situation."

The President paid tribute to the workers, whose labour, sweat and dedication had transformed Namibia's economy from colonial to a free and participatory economy

"It is their toil that continues to sustain and nourish our economy," he said. "It is their toil that continues to give us the means to pursue the nation's developmental goals.

"I believe that we can only become a winning nation if we

improve productivity in order to create wealth for our nation. Workers are at the forefront and therefore they should take a lead in this regard."

President Pohamba peppered the youth with some praises, saying that they were a transmitting belt of Namibia's vision and programmes. The role they played in the struggle for independence and the development of Namibia should not be underestimated. He said that many of them were now serving in the army, police and prison services.

"They play a crucial role in the defence and security of our nation," he said. "Namibia can only leap forward into the frontiers of the 21<sup>st</sup> century if our youth play a positive role in the development of our country.

"We therefore salute our youth for mobilizing their fellow youth, especially the 'born-frees' to participate in last year's Presidential and National Assembly elections in big numbers. Education and training should continue to take centre stage in order to prepare our youth as leaders of tomorrow."

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**Law** from page 1

small and medium enterprise owners who have been squeezed out of the market by foreigners who sell cheap things by simply setting up retail shops.

"The concerns mainly hinge on increased poverty as a result of displacement of small Namibian retail businesses by large and small foreign owned businesses as well as exploitative employment conditions

offered to Namibians by such businesses," read a statement from Cabinet.

The statement said that besides the need for a proactive Government intervention in response to the public outcry, some measures of control in the sector were necessary in the interest of long-term development of a dynamic local industrial or manufacturing sector.

The industrial and manufacturing sector is greatly dependent

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