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 Katjivui, 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. "Now have the honour to inform the nation that I have appointed Mr Tom Alweendo as Director General of NCIO," he said.

Mr Alweendo had been serving in the army, police and defence force before joining the National Planning Commission and subsequently as the Governor on 1 January 1997, the position he still holds to date. Mr Paul Hartmann deputizes him.

President Pohamba, in a one page statement, said that some nationals of the then Angola and Zambia, suffering heavily in education, health, and justice. "This, notwithstanding, our brothers and sisters stood firm and never wavered. We will always be grateful to the invisible support we received from them."

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

"This state of affairs in rural Namibia 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."

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

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"Nonetheless," warned Pohamba, "we therefore salute our workers, whose labour, sweat and dedication has 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 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."

"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 21st century if our young people play a positive role in the development of our country."

"We therefore salute our youth for mobilizing their fellow youths, especially the "born to struggle" 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."