

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MEDIA RELEASE

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

Saturday, 31 March 2018

**Beijing
People's Republic of China**

All Media

President Hage G. Geingob holds successful bilateral talks with President Xi Jinping during State Visit to the People's Republic of China

His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob and Madame Monica Geingos arrived in Beijing on 28 March 2018 for a State Visit at the invitation of His Excellency, Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China.

President Geingob and President Xi held bilateral talks in the Great Hall of the People on Thursday 29 March 2018 to deepen bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual concern. During the talks President Geingob congratulated President Xi on his re-election and the holding of a successful First Session of the 13th National People's Congress. President Geingob thanked President Xi saying: "Your invitation is a great honour to Namibia, testament of the fraternal relations between our two countries and enduring partnership as all weather friends."

President Geingob further informed President Xi that the scope of trade and investment between the countries had not reached its full potential, particularly in the sectors of energy, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism, infrastructure development, mining, including information and communication technologies. President Geingob emphasized that his State Visit to China should allow for an expanded partnership to fully optimize the investment and economic potential that exists between the two countries. Furthermore, President Geingob affirmed the urgency of poverty eradication and economic development after the attainment of political freedom.

Congratulating President Geingob on his electoral victory as President of the Swapo Party late last year, and his resolute leadership of Namibia, President Xi said: "Our mutual understanding has been increased and trust deepened. Your visit is already a great success." President Xi further stated to his counterpart that what mattered was not the size of the two countries, but trust and strengthened consensus.

President Xi praised his counterpart for the Harambee Prosperity Plan and informed that both countries shared development philosophies aimed at common objectives, including poverty eradication and inclusive growth. Bilateral cooperation between the two countries was aligned, synergized and would be elevated to the highest level of a “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership” to reinforce cooperation in all areas, President Xi informed. President Xi said: “This decision is based on the existing relationship of mutual trust and consensus, including positive progress in China-Namibia relations”.

The two leaders agreed that the fight against corruption was necessary to build trust in the ability of ruling parties. Condemning poaching, emphasizing wildlife conservation, President Xi informed President Geingob that Namibia was reclassified as a top tourism destination in China, and he would encourage Namibian tourism agencies and businesses to intensify their promotion activities in the country. President Xi also invited Namibian businesses to participate in the China International Import Exposition scheduled for late 2018.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Government of the People’s Republic of China signed the following agreements, protocols and Memoranda of Understanding:

- Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on the establishment and operation of the China Space Tracking, Telemetry and Command Station in Namibia
- Agreement on economic and technical cooperation of grant between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the People’s Republic of China
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation between Exim Bank and the Ministry of Finance of Namibia
- Letter of exchange of note on the social housing project
- Protocol to facilitate Beef exports to China

On 29 March 2018, President Geingob also visited the Beijing Aerospace City, and was awarded a Doctorate Honoris Causa by the China University of Geosciences. Accepting the honorary doctorate, President Geingob said: "Education holds the key to dignity, prosperity and the wealth of nations". Additionally, the President asserted that education offered many rewards from an individual perspective, but the greatest gift of education was the ability to benefit communities, societies and nations.

President Hage G. Geingob will conclude his State Visit to the People's Republic of China on Monday 2 April 2018.

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