Statement by the Acting Minister
Hon. Martin Andjaba, MP
On the occasion of appointment and orientation of the new
National Heritage Council

Windhoek, Khomas Region

23 JANUARY 2020
Members of the National Heritage Council of Namibia,
The Executive Director and Staff of the Ministry of Education, Art and Culture,
The Director and Staff of the National Heritage Council Secretariat
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is an honour for me to address you this morning at this very first meeting of the National Heritage Council.

As it is customary, after the establishment of the National Heritage Council as a body corporate, it is incumbent upon the Minister responsible for Culture to appoint a board known as the National Heritage Council. This process can never be completed without the announcement to the public, hence the invitation of the members of the media through which we communicate this message to the public.

The opportunity to serve on the Council was an open invitation to the public, as provided for under Section 4 of the National Heritage Act, Act 27 of 2004. I am pleased to inform you ladies and gentlemen, that the number of applications received demonstrates the pride that the Namibian nation has in the wealth of our heritage resources. Therefore, I value the interest of all applicants and their willingness to serve. However, only a limited number is required as per the Act. The selection process was challenging, because every applicant pledged a wealth of expertise and demonstrated how it would be beneficial to the task at hand. I am quite sure that every applicant, even those who did not make it to the final list can still do something in their individual capacities for the conservation and betterment of our heritage resources.

Please allow me, ladies and gentlemen, to state the purpose of the National Heritage Act, Act 27 of 2004, which obliges us to be here today. The purpose of the Act is to provide for the protection and conservation of places and
objects of heritage significance, the registration of such on the National Heritage Register and the establishment of the National Heritage Council and its Secretariat.

I have therefore appointed you for this three (3) year term, effective from 01st January 2020 to 31st December 2023 to provide the policy direction and oversight in the enforcement of the Act and implementation of activities of National Heritage Council. These activities, as you may notice, are outlined in the Strategic Plan 2017/18 – 2021/2022, which was crafted to correspond with the national planning period of the National Development Plan 5 (NDP5) and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

As stated in your appointment letters, I have drawn the power to appoint you from the provisions of the Act. Since this is not the first appointment of the National Heritage Council, my predecessors have ensured that the Act is institutionalised. Therefore, the Director and other staff of the council have already been appointed in line with the provisions of the Act and are responsible for the day to day management of the affairs of the Council and the implementation of Council decisions.

The National Heritage Act and the Strategic Plan serve as guiding tools for decision-making and their principles should be effectively applied to achieve the aims and objectives of the council and steer the Secretariat towards fulfilment of its operations. Each one of you should have a copy of these two important documents.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to highlight that the importance of heritage conservation and management is a challenging task which requires knowledgeable and skilled personnel to enable you to achieve set objectives. It is pleasing to note that the availability of personnel trained in this field has since improved. Therefore, do not be limited to making use of the skills at your disposal. Explore more opportunities that will enable you to excel in your duties and achieve the mandate of the council. Seek additional funding through external sources of funds so that you can augment implementation and maximise benefits for the nation.
I am confident that you will build on the foundations laid by your predecessors in taking preservation of the country’s heritage resources to further heights. I encourage you to abide to the principles of sustainable development in ensuring that the activities implemented by current generations to enjoy and benefit from our heritage resources do not jeopardise the opportunities of future generations for the same purpose.

I wish you all success, may your term be a fruitful time for the National Heritage Council and its Secretariat.

I thank you!