



**Remarks by Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, MP
Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia**

“The Importance of Civil Society in Namibia’s Democracy”

**PRESS CONFERENCE ON
ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES SO FAR, OF THE
CREDIBLE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION (CCSO)**

**European Union Delegation House, Robert Mugabe Street
WINDHOEK**

16th November 2017

**Your Excellency Mrs. Jana Hybášková, Ambassador of the
EU in Namibia,**

Officials of the EU Delegation here present at this event,

**Officials from Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) here
present,**

Members of the Civil Society here present,

Members of the Media,

Thank you for your kind invitation to me to participate in the CCSO Press conference today. As the saying goes, if you are able to assess how far you have come, then you can ably be in a better position to gauge how far you can carry on towards your destination.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As everybody may be aware, the National Assembly and the entire Parliament indeed, of the Republic of Namibia, attaches great importance to the role of civil society in the country amongst other key stakeholders, to the enhancement of democracy and good governance.

It is in this context that the National Assembly is committed to ensuring and facilitating civil society organisations that have a meaningful input into the democratic process in the country. In a bid to promote good governance, transparency and accountability, civil society is expected to play a crucial role in pulling together with other stakeholders as we ensure service delivery to our various communities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Parliament sees the role of civil society as being crucial in order to serve as an important vehicle for reaching out to our communities, particularly in rural and remote areas. In accordance with the Namibian Constitution, the engagement of civil society in parliamentary partnership promotes participatory governance and democracy.

In line with most countries, civil society organisations do require a policy and legislative framework that will govern their

mandate. And, I hope that within the near future, we will be able to have this in place.

Indeed, I am very much looking forward to working with you and other stakeholders in mapping concrete pathways on how to deepen our engagement with the civil society. It would be advisable to ensure that Parliament plays a central role in taking this initiative forward since, as we are all aware, Parliament is the voice of the people! Parliament is keen to promote a meaningful engagement between itself and the civil society. We would like the civil society to be our additional eyes and ears on the ground.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this note, I would therefore, like to appreciate the European Union for having taken the initiative to facilitate this project, aimed at ensuring credible civil society organisations in Namibia. It is my sincere hope that we can utilize this groundwork so far done, to deepen Parliament's engagement with civil society organisations in the country. It is in this connection that I would like to appreciate KAS, especially Mr. Dennis Uatuuapi Zaire and Ms. Naita Hishoono, for their enthusiastic tireless effort to place this project to where it has reached today and, I urge and encourage you to keep up this good spirit of patriotism. If the younger generation of our country can be enthusiastically self-motivated to contribute towards shaping a better Namibia today, then we can have a peace of mind, as we look towards a brighter future tomorrow.

I thank you all!