

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
THE PRESIDENCY**



MEDIA RELEASE

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

21 April 2020

WINDHOEK

ALL MEDIA

Statement attributable to the Press Secretary, Dr. Alfredo T. Hengari

Press Secretary expresses satisfaction with Namibia retaining top position in Africa and upper tier country status in the 2020 World Press Freedom Index

Following publication of the 2020 World Press Freedom Index (RSF) today, 21 April 2020, Namibia retains its position at number 23 as one of the top 25 countries in Press Freedom globally. Namibia also preserves the coveted number 1 position in Africa. The World Press Freedom Index includes 180 countries, which makes the performance of Namibia remarkable. In its column on Namibia, Reporters Without Borders says:

"Press freedom has a firm hold in Namibia, Africa's best ranked country in RSF's World Press Freedom Index, and enjoys solid guarantees. It is protected by the constitution and is often defended by the courts when under attack from other quarters within the state or by vested interests."

Our performance as a top tier country in the world and retaining the number 1 position in Africa is not a mean feat; it is indispensable to our democracy and our continued efforts for Effective, Transparent and Inclusive Governance.

Our ranking as the number 1 country in Africa is not only a reward for the Namibian Government, including President Geingob's clarion call to defend press freedom for as long as he is President, but it is also reward for journalists and media practitioners, who must embrace with pride and patriotism this significant achievement. Many fought for Namibia to be independent, and inherent in our fight for freedom was the full enjoyment of fundamental rights, including freedom of expression, of which freedom of the press is a vital component.

Following yet another milestone in Press Freedom for Namibia, the Presidency reaffirms commitment to the Principles of the 1991 Windhoek Declaration. In that vein, the Presidency wishes to encourage journalists and media practitioners to be guided at all times by the self-regulatory Code of Ethics and Conduct for Namibian Print, Broadcast and Online Media, which calls inter alia, for accuracy, fairness and balance in reporting.

/End

ISSUED BY

Dr. Alfredo Tjiurimo Hengari

Press Secretary

Mobile: +264 811281496

Email: Alfredo.Hengari@op.gov.na