

Message from the Ambassador's Desk on the occasion of the 18th Independence Anniversary of Namibia

Dear Visitors,

18 Years ago, on the 21st of March, Namibia became forever free and independent, an accomplishment born out of the sacrifices of our people and firm solidarity from the international community.

An 18th birthday in the life of a nation is perhaps not a significant milestone but, to us in Namibia, this year is very special in the history of our country and the evolution of our bilateral relations with Austria. First, it marks yet another anniversary celebrating the consolidation of democracy, the promotion and protection of human rights of all our people and forging ahead with sustainable development for the well being of our people. Second, this year, Namibia together with the international community will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council resolution 435/78, which brought about Namibia's independence. A process to which Austria our host made an immense contribution which, in turn laid the foundation for the excellent bilateral relations between our two countries.

Thus Austria has been a good friend of Namibia dating back to the time before the United Nations Transitional Assistance Group (UNTAG). Our two countries have already laid a firm foundation from which to build and consolidate our bilateral relations for the mutual benefit four our people. In this context, let me mention that cooperation between our two countries is firmly taking shape, especially in the social and tourism sectors as well as people to people contacts. I trust that increased interaction between our two nations will give a further and significant impulse to the strengthening of our economic discourse, effecting both trade and investment.

On this 18th independence anniversary I thank you all for your support and continued interest in Namibia.