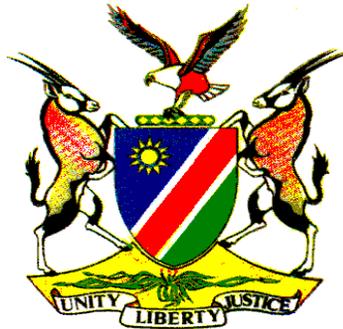


**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION**



**STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR – GENERAL OF THE
NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, MR. TOM
ALWEENDO, AT THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING
CEREMONY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF NAMIBIA
AND CHINA, ON 18 NOVEMBER 2013.**

Master of ceremony

Your Excellency, Mr. Xin Shunkang, Ambassador of the Peoples' Republic of China to the Republic of Namibia

Distinguished guests of the Chinese delegation

Senior Government Officials

Representatives of the media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone present at this signing ceremony. A special welcome goes to H.E. the Ambassador Mr. Xin Shunkang.

Your Excellency, the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Namibia share long standing relations that date back to the period of the liberation struggle. The Chinese Government has been a steadfast partner and has contributed significantly towards the attainment of our national aspirations over the years.

The Government of Namibia sincerely appreciates the support provided by the government of China and will continue to promote healthy development cooperation relations between our two countries on the basis of mutual interest.

Today marks again another milestone where we will witness the signing of an agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation for projects proposed by the Namibian Government and agreed upon through consultations between the two Governments. The grant agreement to the tune of RMB 150,000,000.00 (Renminbi Yuan One Hundred and Fifty Million) will benefit and support the following projects proposed for the next financial year (2014/2015).

- National Youth Service College, construction of phase 2
- Drilling of boreholes in all fourteen regions
- Upgrading of Swakopmund to Henties Bay road

In conclusion, Your Excellency, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the significant support from the Government of the Peoples' Republic of China, in addressing the country's development challenges, but even more importantly for the solid relations and cooperation that exists between our two countries.

I thank you,