

ADDRESS BY HON. PETER S. SHIVUTE, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, AT THE LAUNCH OF THE BOOK
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,
5 JULY 2023, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Director of proceedings

Our distinguished author Dr Sakeus Akweenda

Esteemed invited guests

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

1. It is an honour to stand before you at this momentous occasion

launching the book *Constitutional Law of the Republic of Namibia*.

The publication of this ground-breaking book is a significant development in our collective effort to write and produce truly Namibian law textbooks and legal reference materials. It is my fervent

wish that the publication of this book will be a source of encouragement and inspiration to all of us to produce similar publications.

2. Constitutional law serves as a bedrock of a nation, laying the foundation upon which a just and fair society is built. It ensures protection of fundamental rights, establishes a system of checks and balances, and ensures proper functioning of government institutions.

3. Upon the attainment of Independence on 21 March 1990, Namibia adopted a Constitution, which details the fundamental rules for the country and provides for the creation of our democratic institutions to achieve the national values and aspirations set out in the preamble

to the Constitution. The constitutional text also sets out a host of provisions applicable to fundamental human rights and freedoms.

4. In Namibia, with its rich history of struggle and resilience, the importance of constitutional principles cannot be overstated. It is with this in mind that one should delve into the significance and relevance of the publication we are launching today.

5. This book *Constitutional Law of the Republic of Namibia*, meticulously crafted by our esteemed legal scholar, Dr Sakeus Akweenda, captures the essence of Namibia's constitutional journey. It offers a comprehensive and insightful analysis of the Namibian Constitution, exploring its historical context, key provisions, and

landmark judgments that have shaped the legal landscape of the nation.

6. We live in a dynamic era where constitutional law is continuously evolving, responding to societal changes and emerging challenges.

This book not only presents a detailed account of Namibia's constitutional law but also examines how it has progressed over time.

It highlights the ongoing efforts to promote inclusivity, protect human rights, and strengthen democratic practices.

7. By delving into the constitutional doctrines and principles, the book provides invaluable guidance to legal practitioners, scholars, students and anyone seeking a deep understanding of Namibia's constitutional framework. Its comprehensive nature ensures that

readers will gain a holistic perspective on the subject, analysing the principles within the context of domestic and international jurisprudence.

8. Moreover, this publication signifies our commitment to fostering a culture of constitutional awareness and promoting the rule of law.

Through the power of knowledge and understanding, we can engage in more informed debates, advocate for positive change, and contribute towards the development of a just and progressive society.

9. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the author who has dedicated countless hours to produce this remarkable piece of work.

His expertise and passion have resulted in a resource that will serve

as a guiding light for scholars, lawyers, and policymakers for years to come.

10. I also want to acknowledge the publishers and all those involved in bringing this book to fruition. Their dedication to producing a work of such high standard reflects their commitment to advancing legal scholarship and promoting a deep understanding of Namibia's constitutional system.

11. As we celebrate the launch of this new book, let us be inspired by the vision and dedication that has gone into its creation. Let it serve as a reminder that the Constitution is not just a document, it is a living testament to the principles that guide our nation. Together, let us

continue to uphold its ideals, promote justice, and strive for a future where the rule of law prevails.

12. In conclusion, I urge all scholars, jurists, researchers, academics, and thinkers to follow in the footsteps of the esteemed Dr Akweenda and embark on a journey of creating home-grown legal publications. Just as Dr Akweenda has demonstrated, there is immense value in cultivating our own legal knowledge and contributing to the development of our legal system. By delving into thorough research, dedicating ourselves to rigorous academic pursuits, and engaging in thoughtful analysis, we have the power to shape the legal landscape and make a lasting impact. Together, we can sow the seeds of change and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

13. Thank you all for being part of this momentous occasion. Let us celebrate this milestone and embrace the power of knowledge and understanding as catalyst for positive change.