

16 JULY 2018

**DONATION CEREMONY OF 5 ORYXES TO THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 50<sup>TH</sup> INDEPENDENCE CEREMONY BY THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

Your Excellency, Mr Paramasivum Vyapoory, Acting President of the Republic of Mauritius  
Hon Ivan Collendaveloo – Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Public Utilities

High Commissioner Veiccoh Nghiwete

Honorable Ministers

Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps

Colleagues of the Consular Corps

Directors of Medine and Casela

All Protocol observed

Distinguished Guests

Editors of print and on line media, radios and television

May I wish you a warm welcome to this ceremony of handing over of the Five Oryxes which the Republic of Namibia has graciously donated to the Republic of Mauritius on its Golden Jubilee Independence Anniversary. The resilient oryx was chosen as Namibia's national animal due to its courage, elegance and pride – with the national coats of Arm bearing this unmistakable dweller of the desert.

I was of the opinion that for half a century of independence history and achievements of Mauritius, it was important to have a symbol which reflects endurance and tenacity, qualities associated with Mauritius, not to mention a trait of hospitality which is common to both countries and their respective populations.

I feel so blessed and have so much gratitude for all those both in Namibia and Mauritius who have made this dream of mine become a reality.

This particular situation is a prime example of successful SOUTH/SOUTH COOPERATION BETWEEN SADC NEIGHBOURS.

Thank you to the Hon. Prime Minister of Namibia, Dr Saara Kungoongelwa, the Minister of Environment and Tourism of Namibia and his Ministry and my High Commissioner who is with us to-night. Thank

you also to the Minister of Agro Industry and Food Security and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of Mauritius and their teams for their full support and to Medine, our co host and co sponsor to-night.

My deep appreciation and special thanks for the successful outcome of this project go to Mr Paul Williams, Dr Marie Clair Domaingue and Dr Janine Sharpe with whom I have been working closely for these past six months. Thank you to Air Mauritius for having so spontaneously agreed to sponsor the freight of these five Oryxes from O R Tombo International Airport to SSR International Airport

Thank you to Oxenham & Co Ltd for the generous supply of Namibian Beer which you can enjoy from the Windhoek Bar. And last but not least to Grays for sponsoring the wine to-night.

I do hope that eventually those who will have the opportunity, will come to visit Casela and discover the Oryxes. I take this opportunity to say that Casela has always, over the years, proved to be dedicated to the preservation and conservation of birds and animals in Mauritius and they deserve all the encouragement and support that can be given to them in their endeavours to enable Mauritians to discover animals and birds from all over the world within the bounds of their own country.

I am very honoured by your presence and wish you a very pleasant evening.