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## HIGH COMMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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### **A GOOD WILL MESSAGE BY HIS EXCELLENCY HUMPHREY D. !GEISEB, NAMIBIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

It is a great privilege to be asked to give a goodwill message at this highly distinguished inaugural Annual General Meeting of the African Ship-owners Association, an assemblage of key stakeholders in the maritime sector.

I am equally hearten by the objectives of your Association especially as its concerns developing an indigenous continental Fleet and the underlying imperatives thereof. The relevance of this to the continent's quest for sustainable economic development cannot be over-emphasized.

It bears restating that other continents have done a better job of exploiting these ideals and objectives. We in Africa need to do much more to exploit the boundless opportunities to fend for our people, fight poverty and develop efficient ports and effectively administer the waters of the Seas. We can create high paying jobs for our teeming youths, develop an efficient transportation system, exploit efficiently the oil and gas resources; and other minerals contained in the deep seas and oceans of Africa.

We must also intensify efforts to promote intra-African trade. In fisheries, for instance, statistics show that Pan-African fish trade is worth about 20 billion Euros. This without doubt is colossal, if well maximized, this will help to sustain African economies in the long term. As a cardinal stakeholder in the sector, your Association must use its institutional platform as an impetus to uphold these archetypes. We welcome interests in Namibian Fisheries and shipping industry. Furthermore, we also encourage Nigerian and member states to consider the possibility of offering ship maintenance services to Namibian industry on collaborative basis.

On our part, as a maritime nation, my country Namibia has a responsibility together with other nations and international organizations, like the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), to make our waters safe and secure. Further, Namibia has amongst others reliable dock services which am veritably sure some members of your association have patronized and can attest to. I hereby use this forum to appeal that members take advantage of our efficient and cost effective dock services as an extension of the objective of your esteemed Association. This will be in furtherance of our ambition to be SADC logistical hub based on our location advantages amongst other variables. To this end, we have an ongoing port expansion project in the Walvis Bay Port to orchestrate our long term plans.

Finally, any discussion of maritime security, safety, administration and development cannot be complete without discussion of the impact of Climate Change and the possibility of developing a blue economy following the Paris Convention on Climate Change- our continent cannot be left behind.

In closing, it is self-evident that a viable business lifts the cargo it generates, therefore Africa must possess the capacity to lift the cargo it generates, be they dry or wet, if it must qualify as a strong maritime continent. The goal of this epoch making Annual General Meeting must not be the sustainable use of African oceans and seas by non-Africans, but by Africans first and then others.

Though, I am unavoidably absent here due to prior commitment, I pledge my presence and participation in subsequent meetings. May I use this opportunity once again to thank the Association, especially its Secretariat, for this opportunity; and to also welcome all delegates from all over the continent. I wish you successful deliberations and hope the harmonized outcomes from the various sessions will be transmitted to my Mission accordingly.



Humphrey D. Geisb  
**High Commissioner-Designate**

