

**Media Statement**  
**HANDOVER OF THE SACU CHAIRMANSHIP**  
**18 JULY 2019**  
**WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

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1. The Republic of Namibia assumed the Chairmanship of SACU, effective 15 July 2019 to 14 July 2020, taking over from the Kingdom of Lesotho, whose term commenced on 15 July 2018 and ended on 14 July 2019. The Republic of Namibia will therefore chair the SACU Summit of Heads of State or Government, the Council of Ministers and SACU Commission, respectively.
2. As provided for in the SACU Agreement, 2002 (amended in 2013), the chairmanship rotates amongst the Member States alphabetically, and is held for a period of twelve months.
3. The President of the Republic of Namibia, His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob is now the Chairperson of the SACU Summit, taking over from the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Right Honourable Dr. Thomas Motsoahae Thabane.
4. The Minister of Finance of the Republic of Namibia, Honourable Calle H. Schlettwein, assumed the role of Chairperson of the SACU Council of Ministers, taking over from the Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Honourable Dr. Moeketsi Majoro.
5. The Executive Director in the Ministry of Finance, Ms. Ericah B. Shafudah takes over as the Chairperson of the SACU Commission, from the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Finance of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Mrs. Motena Tšolo.
6. The official handover of the chairmanship was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in Windhoek, Namibia. The outgoing Chairperson of the SACU Council of Ministers, Honourable Dr. Moeketsi Majoro, presented his Handover Report that provides an update on the status of implementation of the SACU Work Programme as well as other issues undertaken during the Kingdom of Lesotho's term. The Report also outlines policy and strategic issues that will need to be advanced and concluded during the Republic of Namibia's term of office.

7. As the incoming Chair of SACU, Namibia will, amongst others, be required to facilitate the bilateral consultations for the SACU Heads of State or Government on issues related to the implementation of the Work Programme for the Ministerial Task Teams on Trade and Industry and on Finance.
  
8. The Chair will also be required to facilitate the convening and chairing of the Meetings of the institutions of SACU to provide the strategic direction and guidance to SACU. In this regard and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Summit, the Chair of SACU is expected to host the Summit of the Heads of State or Government on a date to be confirmed.

Issued by SACU Secretariat