Press Release

Commonwealth Secretary-General congratulates outgoing Namibian President on winning Mo Ibrahim Prize

Fourth winner of prestigious prize lauded for commitment to the rule of law, respect for the constitution, and promotion of gender equality

04 March 2015 - Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma has warmly congratulated outgoing Namibian President Hifikepunye Pohamba, who has been awarded the Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.

“The Commonwealth is once again proud that the winner of this prestigious prize is an outstanding leader from one of our member countries,” said Mr Sharma.

“I applaud President Pohamba for his exemplary leadership in advancing Commonwealth values through the consolidation of democratic practice in Namibia. In particular, his leadership skills have been demonstrated by his commitments to the rule of law, respect for the constitution, and promotion of gender equality. These commitments have formed a firm foundation for the promotion of good governance, and underpinned sustainable development and robust economic growth in Namibia.

Mr Sharma stated: “I am proud that Namibia, along with six other Commonwealth member states, ranks in the top ten on the 2014 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance. Good governance is the bedrock upon which the mutually reinforcing goals of development and democracy will thrive.”

Mr Sharma expressed the hope that this Award will continue to encourage other leaders to embrace values and principles held dear by the Commonwealth.

Footnote: President Pohamba will formally step down from office when President-elect Hage Geingob is inaugurated on 21st March 2015. He becomes the third Commonwealth leader to win the prize.