



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE



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CONTENTS

Abbreviations and Acronyms

Foreword by the Minister

ONE

GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1.1. Vision
- 1.2. Mission
- 1.3. Core Values
- 1.4. Strategic Objectives
- 1.5. Legislative Mandate
- 1.6. Public Entities Reporting to the Minister

TWO

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2023

KEY MISSIONS LED BY THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

- 2.1. Ninth Session of the Namibian Heads of Mission Conference
- 2.2. Consumer Protection and E-Commerce Workshop
- 2.3. Keetmanshoop hosts Agricultural, Industrial & Tourism Expo
- 2.4. Southern Africa Youth held Consultative Workshop held on AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade
- 2.5. Deputy Minister leads Nam Delegation to APSD Celebrations
- 2.6. Namibia Day hosted in Lugano, Switzerland
- 2.7. Deputy Minister attends AfCFTA Business Forum in Cape Town
- 2.8. Deputy Minister attended the African Public Service Day 2023
- 2.9. MIT Reviews, validates Annual Plan for quarter two
- 2.10. Deputy Minister joins VP at Forbes 30, 2023 Summit
- 2.11. EU/ Namibia forum provides knowledge on quality infrastructure
- 2.12. Minister engages Hon. Patel on bilateral matters
- 2.13. Commonwealth Trade Ministers in London
- 2.14. Minister attends SACU Council of Ministers
- 2.15. Minister attends US - Africa Business Summit
- 2.16. Deputy Minister attends 3rd Extraordinary Meeting of the AfCFTA Council Of Ministers Responsible for Trade
- 2.17. Namibia, Russia sign MoU in the field of industry
- 2.18. Deputy Minister in attends Turkey - Africa Economic and Business Forum 2023
- 2.19. Namibia - Zambia Joint Trade and Investment Committee Meeting and Business Forum
- 2.20. Venezuela and Namibia Strengthen Trade and Economic Cooperation

THREE

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

3.0. Voted Funds

3.1. Aim of Vote

3.2. Performance per programme

3.2.1. **Programme 1:** Industrial Development

3.2.2. **Programme 2:** International Trade & Commerce

3.2.3. **Programme 3:** Investment Policy

3.2.4. **Programme 4:** Administration and Coordination

3.2.5. **Programme 5:** Special Industrialisation Initiative

4.0. Conclusion

5.0. Address list of Ministry and Foreign Economic Offices

6.0. Annexure A: Minister's Statement At The Expo 2020 Dubai Appreciation Day

7.0. MIT Teambuilding and End of Year Function



ACRONYMS

ALM	African Leadership Magazine
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
BNC	Bi-National Commission
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
JTC	Joint Trade Committee
MIT	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NIPFA	Namibian Investment Promotion and Facilitation Act
NSI	Namibian Standards Institution
NTB	Non-Tariff Barrier
OSBP	One Stop Border Post
POTY	Persons of the Year
REC	Regional Economic Communities
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SOE	State Owned Enterprise
TISO	Trade and Investment Support Organisation
UK	United Kingdom
WTO	World Trade Organisation



FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to briefly refer in this foreword to the scope of work for the year under review and to share with our stakeholders what can be expected from the Ministry in the short to medium term. As the Minister, I look back at 2023 and realize that the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade has indeed made meaningful strides in fulfilling its mandate and commitment towards creating an enabling environment for increased domestic and foreign direct investment and accelerating trade and industrial development. We also made progress in terms of positioning and safeguarding Namibia's interests in the regional and global economy. The Ministry focused on various interventions underpinned by key policy imperatives relating to industrial development, trade and investment. The need to accelerate the industrialisation agenda is at the core of the Ministry's contribution to placing Namibia on a developmental path and to achieve "Growth at Home", an initiative of the Ministry.

This Annual Report is a reflection of MIT's sterling work done in providing essential facts about improving the core of the Ministry's mandate assigned as a pioneer for economic growth of the country. The 2023/24 period observed a tremendous progress in the implementation of the key programmes aimed at contributing to the economy and job creation. In addition, the period witnessed a gradual drive to enhance the industrial sector; promote investment through the requisite legal and regulatory building blocks to fully industrialise Namibia; to strengthen its trade both locally, regionally, continentally and globally; and to vigorously enable micro, small and medium enterprises to develop and flourish.

In the area of legislation and policy, significant gains have been made in finalizing the Metrology Act which provide legal units of measurements and legal metrology, technical regulations, national measurement standards and ensure compatibility to international measurement standards; advancing the Property Practitioners Bill, Competition Bill as well as introducing the Namibia Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill expected to embrace the treatment and support for domestic and foreign investors providing for sector reservations for Namibian investors.

Further progress was made in crafting the National Informal Economy, Startups and Entrepreneurship Development Policy to support enterprise development and foster an entrepreneurial culture in the particular segments of the business sector; the Sustainable Special Economic Zone Bill built on the 2022-2027 National Policy Sustainable Special Economic Zones Policy; Sustainable Special Economic Zones Sectoral incentives that build on the basic incentive regime outlined in the SSEZ Policy of 2022-2027; and National Cooling Strategy that ensures the development, promotion and regulations of the heating, ventilation, refrigeration and air-conditioning (HVAC) sectors under the Ministry's National Ozone unit.

In relation to promoting the growth and development of MSMEs, during the reporting period, the Equipment Aid Scheme (EAS) was revived as a current programme of the Ministry that has assisted more than four thousand (4 000) entrepreneurs since inception, to acquire equipment and machinery to improve the quality of their products and services, productivity and competitiveness primarily in the manufacturing sector; Namibia launched the AGOA Utilisation Strategy and Action Plan with the purpose to enable Namibia improve and increase export to the USA; the Ministry continued to represent Namibia at continental pedestal to accelerate the implementation of the AfCFTA, activate trade and investment activities. On the SADC front, Namibia was nominated to be the headquarters of the SADC Refrigerator and Air Conditioning Association. This consolidates Namibia's ambition of becoming a Green Hydrogen hub.



The negotiating position on many key issues relating to memorandum of understanding and agreements were strengthened to achieve developmental outcome namely, Trade and Economic Cooperation between Namibia and Venezuela benefiting Namibia through economic intelligence/information exchange, the development as well as the Namibia and Russia agreement cooperating in the fields of aviation; ship building; metallurgy; chemical industries; transport and special machinery; light industry among others.

In conclusion, the year 2024/25 financial year will see a gradual drive to enhance the industrial sector and make way for an "expeditious transformation". With the draft National trade policy approved by cabinet, the Ministry is committed to seeing the establishment of the Board of Trade in the near future, which will be responsible to administer import and export activities on behalf of MIT and serve as Namibia's national body in the future SACU tariff board. The notable milestones and achievements of the 2023/24 financial year could not have been realized without the support and commitment of the staff members and management. I would therefore like to extend my sincere gratitude to all staff members for their unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions. I would like to thank all the stakeholders for their support and collaboration, without whom, the achievement of our goals might have been compromised.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' followed by a horizontal line and a circular flourish.

Hon. Lucia lipumbu,
MP, Minister



MANAGEMENT TEAM

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT



Hon. Lucia Lipumbu
Minister (MP)



Hon. Verna Sinimbo
Deputy Minister



Mr. Sikongo Haihambo
Executive Director



Dr. Michael Humavindu
**Deputy Executive Director
Industrial Development**

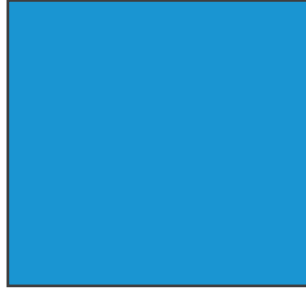


Ms. Ndiitah Nghipondoka Robiati
**Deputy Executive Director
International Trade and
Commerce**

MANAGEMENT



Mr. Peyependa
Nghaamwa
Director
General Services



VACANT
Director
Investment
Promotion



Mr. Asser Nashikaku
Director
International
Trade



Ms. Diina Nashidengo
Director
Commerce



Ms. Ilona Nkandi
Acting Director
Industrial
Development



Mr. Phineas Shinyala
Deputy Director
Regional Economic
Development



Ms. Meriam Silishebo
Deputy Director
Finance &
Administration



Ms. Angela Dau-Pretorius
Deputy Director
Investor Services



Ms. Diana Tjiposa
Deputy Director
Trade Policy



Mr. Sakeus Kapenda
Deputy Director
Trade Promotion



Mr. Salom Haidula
Deputy Director
Consumer Protection &
IMR



Ms. Selma Shivute
Deputy Director
Information
Technology



Mr. Josef Shikongo
Deputy Director
Weights, Measures and
Standards, Trade and
Commerce



Mr. Elvis Sinfwa
Deputy Director
Security & Risk
Management Services



Ms. Priska Naimhwaka
Acting Deputy Director
Trade Agreements

ONE

GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1. VISION

To be the leading Ministry in the drive towards industrialization, the realization of an export-driven economy and making Namibia a preferred FDI destination in order to achieve increased and sustainable economic benefits and employment for Namibians and international competitiveness.

1.2. MISSION

To create an enabling environment for increased domestic and foreign direct investment, trade and industrial development, and to position and safeguard the interest of Namibia in the regional and global economy.

The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade is responsible for the development and management of Namibia's economic regulatory regime, on the basis of which the country's domestic and external economic relations are conducted. It promotes growth and development of the economy through the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies to attract investment, increase trade, develop and expand the country's industrial base.

1.3. CORE VALUES

Accountability: A pledge that will be held accountable for our actions.

Innovation: We pledge to be innovative in our methods of doing things.

Transparency: We will be open in our practice to our clients and willing and available to account for all our actions and activities.

Teamwork: We recognize the value and benefits of working together in unity of purpose, comradeship and fostering and good team spirit and relation within the MIT and with our external partners and stakeholders.

Professionalism: We will exhibit the requisite competencies and skills required in areas of responsibilities.

Integrity: Deliver timely, efficient and effective service to the public.

1.4. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Investment promotion
- Promotion of manufacturing activity
- Growth and diversification of the Namibia's exports and export markets
- Promotion of growth and development of SMEs

1.5. LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

MIT administered the following legislation (Table 1)

NAME OF ACT	PURPOSE
1. Companies Act, 2004 (Act No.28 of 2004).	To provide for the incorporation, management and liquidation of companies; and to provide for incidental matters.
2. Competition Act (Act No. 2 of 2003).	To promote competitive market conditions through investigation and prosecution of anti-competitive activities; reviewing and approving mergers and exemption applications; and disseminating information to businesses, consumers and other stakeholders.
3. Close Corporations Act, 1988 (Act No. 26 of 1988).	To provide for the formation, registration incorporation, management, control and liquidation of close corporations.
4. Estates Agents Act (Act no. 112 of 1976).	To regulate and control the activities of estate agents in the public interest.
5. EPZ Act (Act No. 9 of 1995).	To manage and promote the EPZ regime in Namibia's premier harbor town, Walvis Bay.
6. Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Act, 1995 (Act no. 9 of 1995 as amended).	To promote and market investment opportunities under Namibia's EPZ, monitor and coordinate all EPZ related activities and provide an umbrella facilitative service to approved investors in the country.
7. Foreign Investment Act, 1993 (Act No. 24 of 1993 as amended).	To make provision for the promotion of foreign investments in Namibia.
8. Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA) Act, 2016 (Act No.16 of 2016).	To actively facilitate and drive industrial development in the country in line with the industrial policy and its "Growth at Home" implementation Strategy towards the achievement of Vision 2030 goal.
9. Standards Act, (Act No. 18 of 2005).	To promote the use of standards and quality assurance and control in industry, commerce and public sector; provide conformity assessment services; certification of systems, product and personnel systems; inspect and test products and materials; and trade (legal) metrology – enforcement of product labelling, weights and measures.
10. The Import and Export Control Act, 1994 (Act 30 of 1994).	To provide for import and export control.

1.6. PUBLIC ENTITIES REPORTING TO THE MINISTER (TABLE 2)

NAME OF PUBLIC ENTITY	ENABLING LEGISLATION	PURPOSE
<p>1. BIPA Ms. Vivienne Katjuongua Acting Chief Executive Officer Tel: +264 61 299 440 Fax:+264 61 401 061 Email: info@bipa.na/ info@bipa.na Website: www.bipa.na</p>	<p>Business and Intellectual Property Authority Bill, 2013.</p>	<p>To be a central focal point for the registration, administration and protection of business, industrial and intellectual property.</p>
<p>2. INTERIM BOARD OF TRADE Board Member Mr. Asser Nashikaku Tel: +264 61 283 7297 Fax:+264 61 238 786 Email:Asser.Nashikaku@mti.gov.na</p>	<p>Cabinet Decision No. 5th/14.03.06/008 (Bill is being drafted)</p>	<p>To administer import, export activities on behalf of MTI, and serve as Namibia's national body in the future SACU tariff board.</p>
<p>3.NAMIBIA COMPETITION COMMISSION (NCC) Chief Executive Officer Mr. Vitalis Ndalikokule Tel: +264 61 224622 Fax: +264 61 401900 Email: info@nacc.com.na Website: www.nacc.com.na</p>	<p>Competition Act (Act No. 2 of 2003).</p>	<p>The NCC is tasked to promote competitive market conditions through investigation and prosecution of anti-competitive activities; reviewing and approving mergers and exemption applications; and disseminating information to businesses, consumers and other stakeholders.</p>
<p>4. NAMIBIA ESTATE AGENTS BOARD The Manager (Acting) The Manager Mr. Festus Unengu Tel: +264 61 249885 Fax: +264 61 234709 Email: neab@iway.na Website: www.neab.iway.na</p>	<p>Estates Agents Act (Act no. 112 of 1976).</p>	<p>The purpose of NEAB is that of regulating and controlling the activities of estate agents in the public interest. In this regard, the Board is tasked with protecting consumers in estate agency transactions while having regard to the interests of the industry; maintaining and promoting the standard of conduct of the industry; and regulating the activities of the estate agents in general.</p>

<p>5. NAMIBIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NIDA) Phillip Namundjebo Acting Chief Executive Officer Tel: +264 61 206 2111 Email: info@nida.com.na</p>	<p>Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA) Act (Act No.16 of 2016).</p>	<p>To actively facilitate and drive industrial development in the country in line with the industrial policy and its “Growth at Home” implementation Strategy towards the achievement of Vision 2030 goal.</p>
<p>6. NAMIBIA STANDARDS INSTITUTION (NSI) The Chief Executive Officer Dr. Eino Mvula Namibia Standards Institution Tel: +264 61 386400 Fax: +264 61 386454 Email: info@nsi.com.na Website: www.nsi.com.na</p>	<p>Standards Act , (Act No. 18 of 2005)</p>	<p>The NSI was established to promote the use of standards and quality assurance and control in industry, commerce and public sector; provide conformity assessment services; certification of systems, product and personnel systems; inspect and test products and materials; and trade (legal) metrology – enforcement of product labelling, weights and measures.</p>
<p>7. NAMIBIA TRADE FORUM Chief Executive Officer Ms. Stacey Pinto Tel: +264 61-379500 Fax: +264 61-306604 Email: info@ntf.org.na Website: www.ntf.org.na</p>	<p>Cabinet Decision No. 17th/02.08.05/007.</p>	<p>To act as the main consultative body representing the private sector views to the government. It thus serves as the highest public private partnership on international trade and investment matters.</p>
<p>8. WALVIS BAY EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE MANAGMENT COMPANY (PTY) LIMITED The Manager Mr. Jan Kruger Tel: +264 64 205 095 Fax: +264 64 206 132 E-mail: wbepzmc@iway.na Website: www.wbepzmc.iway.na</p>	<p>EPZ Act (Act No. 9 of 1995).</p>	<p>Responsible of managing and promoting the EPZ regime in Namibia’s premier harbor town, Walvis Bay. In this regard, the Company provides investment facilitative services such as acquiring and servicing industrial land; construction and leasing of industrial factories; processing and facilitating applications for EPZ status, work permits and visas, and other investor needs.</p>

2.1. NINTH SESSION OF THE NAMIBIAN HEADS OF MISSION CONFERENCE

Date: November 2023

Venue: Windhoek, Namibia

The Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Lucia Ipumbu, addressed the Namibian Heads of Mission Conference, held on 1 November 2023 at Mercure Hotel in Windhoek. During her key note address, Hon. Ipumbu highlighted the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) that was put into force on the 22 February 2017, which calls for member states to address, reform, establishing or adopting measures that will facilitate cross border trade, to ensure expedient movement and clearance of goods destined for domestic market or in transit to other states in a non-discriminatory manner.



Photo contributed: Hon. Lucia Ipumbu (Minister of Industrialisation and Trade) addressing the 9th session of the Namibian Heads of Mission Conference.

Minister Ipumbu, also spoke about Regional Integration where she underscored the importance of Namibian membership to SACU, hence the country is able to benefit through trade and investment attraction within the block. Apart from SACU, Honorable Minister also stated that Namibia is part of the tripartite (SADC-EAC-COMESA) Free Trade Area (FTA), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as well as member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). She concluded by pleading to the heads of mission to work collectively to build a stronger, more integrated, and prosperous future where businesses can flourish, people can prosper, and Namibia to continue playing a leading role in the global economy.

2.2. CONSUMER PROTECTION AND E-COMMERCE WORKSHOP

Date: November 2023

Venue: Windhoek, Namibia

The Deputy Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Verna Sinimbo, delivered a welcome speech at the event, to mark the beginning of the 3-day Southern Africa Workshop on Consumer Protection and E-Commerce, at Hilton Hotel in the capital. In her remarks, Hon. Sinimbo stated that Consumer Protection and E-Commerce workshop, came at an opportune time when Namibia is making steps to finalize Consumer Protection Legislation. She further narrated that financial services are evolving rapidly with a growth array of new technologies, unconventional providers and innovative combinations of financial and non-financial services.

Hon. Sinimbo indicated that Consumer protection is considered a basic regulatory enabler for digital financial inclusion, hence there is a need to protect consumers, and thus a better protection of consumers may enhance their trust and increase their usage of normal financial services. Furthermore, Honorable Deputy Minister cautioned consumers to be suspicious of fraud and extended her gratitude to all stakeholders partaking in the workshop and in particular to Federal Trade Commission for partnering with MIT to host the workshop.



Photo contributed: Hon. Verna Sinimbo, Deputy Minister of Industrialisation and Trade pictured with participants at the Southern Africa Workshop on Consumer Protection and E-Commerce earlier today at Hilton Hotel, Windhoek

2.3. KEETMANSHOOP HOSTS AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL & TOURISM EXPO

Date: October 2023

Venue: Keetmanshoop

Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Lucia lipumbu officiated the Agricultural, Industrial & Tourism Expo at Keetmanshoop. The event presented a platform aimed at providing businesses, especially MSMEs an ideal pedestal to showcase their innovations, promote and market their products and services to strengthen economic development. Hon. lipumbu remarked the //Kharas region is contributing significantly to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and foreign exchange earnings from its rich mineral resource extractions, namely diamonds, zinc, copper, marble, silver, tin, and lead mainly in Oranjemund, Ludertiz and Rosh Pinah areas.

The region has a good performance in agricultural activities, as witnessed over the years, in yielding grapes and dates for local and export markets, as well as the huge potential of small stock farming , Hon. lipumbu noted. The Minister indicated that the country needs to embrace the shift in the economic landscape, especially with the developing industries such as Green Hydrogen and the recent discoveries of oil and gas that are mostly based in the // Kharas region. She urged the residents to ensure benefitting from all the opportunities present in the region.



Photo: Hon. Lucia lipumbu (Minister of Industrialisation and Trade) delivering her statement at the expo.

2.4. SOUTHERN AFRICA YOUTH HELD CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP HELD ON AFCFTA PROTOCOL ON WOMEN AND YOUTH IN TRADE

Date: June 2023

Venue: Windhoek

The Namibian Government, through the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) and in collaboration with the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and the National Youth Council of Namibia, convened a two-day Southern Africa Youth Consultative Workshop on the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade from 22 - 23 June 2023 at Mercure Hotel in the capital. The workshop sought to generate issues of Inclusion in the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade and e-Commerce as well as to enhance access to economic opportunities for the youth at national and regional levels through sustainability in youth priority sectors.

Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Lucia Lipumbu officiated the opening of the workshop that paved way to deliberate on matters relating to value addition and innovation; support mechanisms for formal and informal traders; intellectual property and rights; barriers to entry and effective participation; discriminatory customs and practices; capacity building; and standards and origin certification. "The SADC Youth Voice is important in this process and we want to negotiate in your best interest", Honorable Minister said.



Hon. Lucia Lipumbu delivering her keynote address at the event.

2.5. DEPUTY MINISTER LEADS NAM DELEGATION TO APSD CELEBRATIONS

Date: June 2023

Venue: Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Deputy Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Verna Sinimbo led a delegation to attend and participate at the 9th edition of the Continental Public Service Day (APSD) celebration scheduled from 21 – 23 June 2023 at Elephant Hills Hotel in Victoria Falls (Republic of Zimbabwe). The 2023 APSD celebration was themed – “THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (ACFTA) WILL REQUIRE A FIT FOR PURPOSE AFRICAN ADMINISTRATION TO SUCCEED”.



Photo: Photo contributed: Hon. Sinimbo pictured with Ministers of Public Services from participating Member States at the APSD celebrations in Victoria Falls.

At the heart of the APSD celebrations was the provision of due recognition of the working conditions and the quality of men and women who devote their lives to diligently serve the public and provision and delivery of value and quality of services to Africa’s citizens. The gathering accorded an invaluable opportunity for public servants to promote values such as professionalism, accountability, responsiveness, ethics and performance in the delivery of public service. As per the established tradition, the host country availed free exhibition booths for Member States to display their innovations and share their experiences with others. The Continental APSD has been celebrated eight (8) times – in Namibia (2007), in Tanzania (2009 and 2011), in Ghana (2013), in Congo Brazzaville (2015), in Rwanda (2017), in Kenya (2019) and in Zimbabwe (2021).

2.6. NAMIBIA DAY HOSTED IN LUGANO, SWITZERLAND

Date: April 2023

Venue: Lugano, Switzerland

The Permanent Mission of Namibia in Geneva (Switzerland) participated at an Investment Promotion event under the theme “Namibia Day, Lugano 1st Edition”. The event was co-organized by Mission and Société de l’Eau Aérienne Suisse SA (SEAS), a Swiss company based in Lugano, Switzerland.

At the event, the Mission made presentations to multi-sectoral business entities on potential investment opportunities in Namibia offered in both the Public and Private Sectors focusing on the country’s dominant industries, including Energy, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Transport and Logistics, Water, Housing and Real Estate, Mining, Tourism, Chemical Industry, Global Business Services, Green Hydrogen, Metals and Mining, Oil and Gas and Renewable Energy.

The event attracted over 35 participants across multiple sectors and edition a second of the same event is being organized to further fulfil the Mission’s mandate of promoting Namibia as a preferred investment destination.



Members of the Mission and esteemed participants at the event.

2.7. DEPUTY MINISTER ATTENDS AfCFTA BUSINESS FORUM IN CAPE TOWN

Date: April 2023

Venue: Cape Town, South Africa

Deputy Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Verna Sinimbo was in attendance at the official opening South Africa), themed “Accelerating Implementation of the AfCFTA”. The AfCFTA Secretariat in collaboration with the South African Government convened the AfCFTA Business Forum that lasted for four days and the event. The assembly of dignitaries at the event sought to present a platform to enable the private sector to unlock trade and investment opportunities in priority sectors namely Agriculture, Ago-processing, Pharmaceuticals, Automotive, Transport, Logistics as well as payment systems among others. Forum assembled together notable players on the continent to accelerate and activate trade and investment activities under the umbrella of AfCFTA implementation.



(Picture contributed) Extreme left: Hon Sinimbo in attendance at the official opening of the AfCFTA Business Forum in Cape Town.

2.8. DEPUTY MINISTER ATTENDED THE AFRICAN PUBLIC SERVICE DAY 2023

Date: July 2023

Venue: Katima Mulilo

Deputy Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Verna Sinimbo delivered a statement on behalf of the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila during the celebration of the Africa Public Service Day (APSD) 2023 held at the University of Namibia premises, Katima Mulilo in Zambezi region. The continental APSD was a day for civil servants and public service organizations in recognizing the role of public servants and public sector organizations and their positive contribution and benefits to civil society and national development efforts. The APSD commenced on 24 July, and the main event was commemorated on 27 July 2023 and the entire week participants exhibited in an attractive manner various products and services by OMAS and Regional Councils.



Photo contributed: Hon. Sinimbo pictured during the APSD main event at Katima Mulilo.

Hon. Sinimbo in her statement aligned to the theme aptly captured “The African Continental Free Trade Area will require a fit for purpose African Public administrators to succeed” opined the need to eliminate barriers to trade amongst African States and instead promote digital transformation to achieve increased trade and economic growth while embracing work ethics and customer service which are a priority for Government.

2.9. MIT REVIEWS, VALIDATES ANNUAL PLAN FOR QUARTER TWO

Date: October 2023

Venue: Windhoek

The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) conducted a two-day in-house gathering to validate the Ministerial Annual Plan review for the second quarter of 2023 (July, August & September) period at River Crossing Lodge outside the capital. The appraisal exercise sought to track progress, provide convenient feedback, analyze, validate and assess the performance of the Ministry’s Annual Plan for 2023/24 fy.



Group photo of MIT Management cadre and support staff at the session.

The assembly aimed to underpin achievements as well as to seize setbacks and improve on them. The discussions of the gathering focused on re-examining past activities and formulating new ones to reaffirm the right trajectory beyond the period under review.

2.10. DEPUTY MINISTER JOINS VP AT FORBES 30, 2023 SUMMIT

Date: April 2023

Venue: Gaborone, Botswana

Deputy Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Verna Sinimbo was part of the delegation that accompanied, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia, H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba on a mission to Botswana from 23 – 26 April 2023 to attend the Forbes under 30, 2023 summit.



Photo contributed: Extreme left: Hon. Sinimbo among other dignitaries on official mission to Botswana.

The summit meeting assembled the world's most elite young entrepreneurs and game-changers to harness the power of entrepreneurial capitalism to aid the much-needed growth on the African continent. The event also provided a platform to world-class slate of local and international speakers who exchanged insights and influence on crucial conversations rooted in sustainability, innovation and entrepreneurship crucial for modern and future generation leaders. The gathering also highlighted discussions of common interest among participating members. The Namibian delegation was head by H.E Dr. Nangolo Mbumba.

2.11. EU/ NAMIBIA FORUM PROVIDES KNOWLEDGE ON QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Date: April 2023

Venue: Windhoek

The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade, EU Twinning project, together with its partners and Namibian Standards Institute hosted the first ever EU/Namibia Quality Infrastructure (QI) Forum on 18 April 2023, in Windhoek. The Forum aimed at providing knowledge on how the different elements of the Quality Infrastructure systems are beneficial and crucial in achieving short and long-term economic development, social well-being, and emancipate global trade.



Picture of participants at the EU/Namibia Quality Infrastructure (QI) Forum held in Windhoek.

The event further had the objective to create awareness about the EU/Namibia Quality Infrastructure (QI) Forum and EU Twinning Project in general, encouraging participation in the EU/Namibia QI Forum, and developing interest in activities of EU Twinning project and QI. Speaking at the event, MIT's Executive Director, Mr. Sikongo Haihambo said the initiative was specifically aimed at rendering the much-needed support in areas of Standardization, Certification, Trade and Industry, and is well aligned with the recently launched and under implementation National Quality Policy (NQP).

“With the Twinning Project in motion, Namibia will, without doubt, build a strong foundation for the development and enhancement of new and existing partnerships to international trade agreements and to boost the market environment which will contribute to the country's national agenda, including Vision 2013, National Development Plans and the Harambee Prosperity Plan,” Haihambo emphasized. These, he said, would be attained by utilizing the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between EU and SADC, the WTO Agreement on TBT, Sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures as well as SADC protocol and its Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Annex.

2.12. MINISTER ENGAGES HON. PATEL ON BILATERAL MATTERS

Date: June 2023

Venue: Pretoria, South Africa

Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Lucia lipumbu, led a Ministerial delegation to Pretoria, South Africa, to engage her counterpart, Hon. Ebrahim Patel (RSA Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition) to deliberate on critical bilateral matters of mutual benefit between the two countries. The Ministerial bilateral engagements sought to consolidate key aspects related to collaboration in trade, investment and industry.

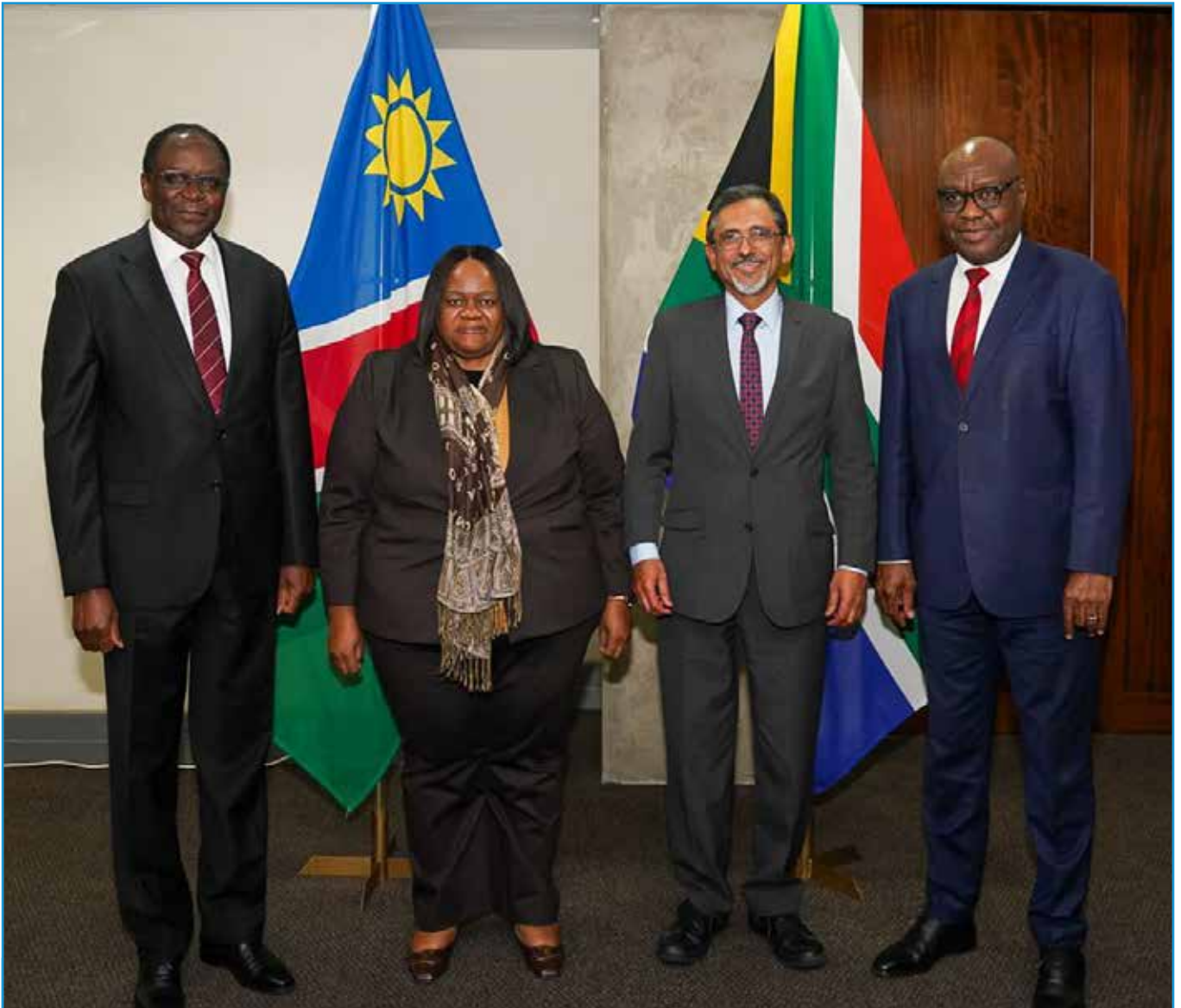


Photo contributed: (from left) H.E Veicco Ngiwete, Hon. Lucia Lipumbu, Hon. Ebrahim Patel and Hon. Fikile Majola

The reciprocal gathering heralded the Namibia - South Africa Bi-National Commission and Business Forum that took place in Namibia in July 2023. H.E Veicco Ngiwete (Namibian High Commissioner to RSA) and senior officials complemented the Minister. While his deputy, Hon. Fikile Majola, joined Hon. Patel and senior officials accompanied the Minister.

2.13. COMMONWEALTH TRADE MINISTERS IN LONDON

Date: June 2023

Venue: London

Hon. Verna Sinimbo, Deputy Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, attended the 2023 Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting for 2 days (5 - 6 June 2023), Marlborough House in London. Preceding the Ministers Meeting was the Senior Trade Officials Meeting that convened on 2 - 3 June 2023 at the same venue. The 2023 Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting provided an opportunity for Ministers to take stock of developments in Commonwealth trade and investment, reflect on the opportunities for mutual cooperation to increase intra commonwealth trade as well as to provide guidance on the way forward ahead of the 2024 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.



Photo contributed: Group photo of Trade Ministers from 46 members states in attendance at the two day Commonwealth Ministers of Trade Meeting in London.

Hon. Sinimbo made significant contribution at the Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting chiefly on two agenda items namely; supporting the multilateral trading systems as well as inclusive and sustainable trade. At the periphery of the Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting, Hon. Sinimbo attended a lecture themed leveraging digital and trade finance to accelerate the Africa Continental Free Trade under the AfCFTA besides the breakfast event entitled sustainable sourcing in trade of fish products.



2.14. MINISTER ATTENDS SACU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Date: June 2023

Venue: Kingdom of Eswatini

Hon. Lucia Lipumbu (Minister of Industrialisation and Trade) attended the 49th Meeting of the SACU Council of Ministers convened in the Kingdom of Eswatini to consider the Report of the 72nd Commission in preparation for the 8th Summit of the SACU Heads of State or Government.



Photo: Hon. Lipumbu (on the right) pictured during the SACU meeting

The Meetings of the Commission, the Finance and Audit Committee, and the Senior Trade Officials preceded the Council meeting. The focus of the Summit was to consider the report of the SACU Council of Ministers on progress made to implement the Roadmap and to re-invigorate the SACU work programme, which was agreed to by the Heads of State and Government during the special Meeting on 12th November 2015, in Windhoek, Namibia. The report also provided an update on the SACU Trade Agenda, focusing on trade negotiations and trade facilitation programme. On the sideline of the Council Meeting, Honorable Minister attended the 5th SACU Council Ministerial Retreat, which among others, considered how to make the Institutions of SACU efficient and more effective. The Ministers responsible for Trade and Industry, and Finance in SACU Member States attended the retreat.



Photo contributed: SACU Council of Ministers

2.15. MINISTER ATTENDS US - AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT

Date: July 2023

Venue: Gaborone (Botswana)

Hon. Lucia Lipumbu (Minister of Industrialisation and Trade) formed part of the Namibian delegation that attended the 15th US-Africa Business Summit in Gaborone, Botswana from July 11th to 14th, 2023. H.E. Dr Nangolo Mbumba (Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia) led the delegation. The summit brought together over 1000 participants, including Heads of State, ministers, government officials, private sector executives, entrepreneurs, international investors, and multilateral stakeholders from the United States and Africa.

The theme of the summit was “Enhancing Africa’s Value in Global Value Chains,” with a focus on strengthening trade and investment opportunities between the United States and Africa. The summit aimed to foster renewed commitments among stakeholders and encourage the United States to expand its trade initiatives and pursue agreements beyond the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), thus boosting Africa’s trade potential.



Photo contributed: The Namibian High-level delegation to the US - Africa Business Summit, pictured post the event.

2.16. DEPUTY MINISTER ATTENDS 3RD EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE AfCFTA COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRADE

Date: July 2023

Venue: Nairobi, Kenya.

The 3rd Extraordinary meeting of the AfCFTA Council of Ministers responsible for Trade was held in hybrid format, from 12 to 13 July 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. The objective of the meeting was to consider the outcome of the national consultations on the outstanding issues relating to the rules of origin for automotive sector and the rules of origin for textiles and clothing respectively. The meeting also received an update on the negotiations on the protocol on investment, protocol on digital trade and the protocol on Women in Trade. Hon. Verna Sinimbo (Deputy Minister of Industrialisation and Trade) led the Namibian delegation, accompanied by Mr. Asser Nashikaku (Acting Director for International Trade) and Ms. Anniki Kavara.



Photo contributed: Centre - Hon. Sinimbo pictured preceding the official meeting

2.17. NAMIBIA, RUSSIA SIGN MOU IN THE FIELD OF INDUSTRY

Date: July 2023

Venue: St. Petersburg, Russian

Hon. Lucia Lipumbu (Minister of Industrialisation and Trade) formed part of the delegation led by HE Dr. Nangolo Mbumba (Vice President of the Republic of Namibia) to the Second Summit of the Russia - African Economic and Humanitarian forum held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation from 27 - 28 July 2023. During the summit, the Minister and officials from the Ministry held several bilateral engagements on trade, industrialization and investments with various stakeholders among others, potential investors and meetings with the Ministry of Trade and Industry of the Russian Federation, which resulted in the signing of the MoU for cooperation in the field of Industry.



Photo contributed: Hon. Lipumbu pictured during the summit.

Namibia and Russia signed an agreement to cooperate in the fields of aviation; ship building; metallurgy; chemical industries; transport and special machinery; light industry among others. Hon. Lucia Lipumbu and Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry of the Russian Federation Alexey Gruzdev facilitated the establishment of business contacts between the industrial enterprises of their respective states, providing for business and partnership-type cooperation.

2.18. DEPUTY MINISTER IN ATTENDS TURKEY - AFRICA ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS FORUM 2023

Date: October 2023

Venue: Istanbul, Turkey

Hon. Verna Sinimbo (Deputy Minister of Industrialisation and Trade) attended the 4th Turkey-Africa Economic and Business Forum in Istanbul. The forum convened under the theme - addressing challenges, unlocking opportunities: building stronger Turkey - Africa economic partnership. The assembly deliberated on overcoming obstacles, share ideas for mitigating identified challenges and deepen Turkey-Africa cooperation, these challenges includes the following but not limited to issues on trade barriers, infrastructure gaps, financing constraints and regulatory complexities.



Photo contributed: A group picture of participants at the ongoing Turkey - Africa Economic and Business Forum in Istanbul, Turkey.

The forum ended, 13 October 2023, and the expected outcome of the Assembly was to update current relations among business people of participating countries and set new targets for future development of economic, commercial and business partnership.

2.19. NAMIBIA - ZAMBIA JOINT TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING AND BUSINESS FORUM

Date: September 2023

Venue: Lusaka, Zambia

Hon. Lucia lipumbu (Minister of Industrialisation and Trade) led a delegation comprised of Senior Government Official and Business people to Lusaka Zambia to participate in the Namibia - Zambia Joint Trade and Investment Committee Meeting and Business Forum from 05 - 06 September 2023.



Photo contributed: Participants at the Namibia-Zambia Joint Trade & Investment and Business Forum in Lusaka.

The meeting aimed at taking stock of various commitments made during the bilateral engagements held in February 2023 as well as to explore various business partnerships, trade and investment opportunities in various identified priority sectors. The Namibian business delegates participated in the B2B and B2G sessions with their Zambian counterparts as well government officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry. The business community further undertook specific Industrial benchmarking activities and familiarization visits.

2.20. VENEZUELA AND NAMIBIA STRENGTHEN TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Date: November 2023

Venue: Venezuela

Hon. Lucia lipumbu (Minister of Industrialisation and Trade) together with her delegation undertook an assignment to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Latin America) on a ministerial mission. Hon. lipumbu was received by the Vice Minister for Africa, of the Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Affairs, Yuri Pimentel, and the Vice Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment Promotion, Johann Álvarez. This important mission aimed to enhance trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.



Photo contribute: Hon. Lucia Iipumbu (Minister of Industrialisation and Trade) pictured with Johann Álvarez Márquez, (Vice Minister for Foreign Trade and Investment Promotion of Venezuela).

The visit further intended to follow up on the commitments and talks within the framework of the first Venezuela-Namibia Joint Commission of Cooperation (JCC) that took place in March 2023 in Windhoek, Namibia, specifically in the identified economic areas of interest encompassing trade, agriculture, mining and housing. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Republic of Namibia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Trade and Economic Cooperation on 30 November 2023, as a glowing testimony to fortify bilateral ties between the two countries. Entering into this MoU with Venezuela will benefit Namibia through economic intelligence/information exchange, the development and exploitation of trade, industrial cooperation, and investment opportunities.

Venezuela and Namibia established diplomatic relations on 22 May 1990. With greater reason, such ties were further strengthened by the assuming of the presidency by Commander Hugo Chave, resulting in the signing of 22 cooperation instruments in politics, education, culture, library services, communication, mining, oil, agriculture, housing, women and gender equality, electoral processes, work and social development. Namibian products with export potential to Venezuela include fresh grapes, dates, fish, beef, and salt, minerals (marbles, uranium and diamonds). Venezuelan products with export potential to Namibia include petroleum, coffee, heavy pure woven cotton, sugar, wheat and rice.

THREE

PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

3.0. VOTED FUNDS (TABLE 3)

Main Appropriation N\$'000	Adjusted Appropriation N\$'000	Actual Amount Spent N\$'000	Not Spent N\$'000
232 102 000	277 556 000	275 885 026.78	1 669 973.22
Responsible Minister:		Minister of Industrialisation and Trade	
Administering Department	Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade		
Accounting Officer:		Executive Director of Industrialisation and Trade	

3.1. AIM OF VOTE

Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade is charged with the responsibility to develop and manage Namibia's economic regulatory framework, promote economic growth and development through the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies to attract investment, increase trade, develop and expand the country's industrial base and enable equitable participation in the domestic and international markets.

3.2. PERFORMANCE PER PROGRAMME

3.2.1. INDUSTRIAL AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The programme is intended to promote manufacturing and entrepreneurship development. The programme overall objective is to achieve equitable and sustainable industrial planning, employment creation and the development of a robust competitive industrial sector.

(a) Industrial Planning and Development

This activity involves the development of policies and strategies on industrial development, whose objective is to boost supply-side capacities of local industries and ensure an increased contribution of the productive sector to the country's GDP.

(b) Small Business Development

This activity involves the development of policies and strategies to support entrepreneurs and enterprises in the areas of research and development, product development and business development, as well as the acquisition of specialized skills through short-term training in order to strengthen the implementation of both industrial and Micro and Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) policy and the Growth at Home strategy for the country.

Achievements:

- Namibia nominated as Headquarters for SADC Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Association
- Benchmarked its Industrial policy Implementation framework against best regional and international practices
- The Biomass project construction is completed

- Skilled 242 students at Karibib Gemstone Centre in Diamond Cutting and Polishing Sector
- Revived the Equipment Aid Scheme (EAS)
- Drafted the following publication
- National Cooling Strategy that ensures the development, promotion and regulations of the heating, ventilation, refrigeration and air-conditioning (HVAC) sectors under the Ministry's National Ozone unit.

3.2.2. TRADE PROMOTION AND COMMERCE

This programme is intended to make Namibia competitive in terms of business establishment and expansion, protection of business and intellectual property, quality and standards, export of goods and services, and fair market competition. This entails the implementation, management and maintenance of compliance to domestic and international instruments and measures concerned with commerce, domestic market regulation, international trade and trade facilitation.

(a) Trade Promotions

This Programme is intended to ensure effective and efficient business establishment and economic growth in the country. It entails the implementation and management of trade frameworks concerning trade and commerce, domestic market regulation, and international trade facilitation. Domestic Trade Management This activity aims for the development and adoption of appropriate legal regulatory and institutional frameworks for effective business registration, establishment and operation of businesses, protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, consumer protection, standards, weight and measures, conformity to business assessment, competition, franchise and e-commerce.

(b) Domestic Trade Management Activities

The Activity focuses on the development and adoption of an appropriate legal, regulatory and institutional framework for effective registration, establishment and operation of businesses; the registration, protection and enforcement of intellectual property, standards, conformity assessment and franchises; as well as promotion and safeguarding of consumer welfare and market competition, as important conditions for a vibrant and robust domestic economy.

(c) External Trade Management

This activity aims to increase market preferential access of Namibia products (goods and services) globally and regionally that are exported in order to reduce dependency on imports. The Ministry developed the International Trade Management Bill, which once concluded, among others, will establish the Namibian Trade Management Commission. The Commission will provide for application, enactment into domestic and international trade.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Namibia launched the AGOA Utilisation Strategy and Action Plan.
- Continue to establish the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Trade and Economic Cooperation with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
- Signed an agreement with Russia to cooperate in the fields of aviation; ship building; metallurgy; chemical industries; transport and special machinery; light industry among others.
- Facilitated the enactment and promulgation of

- The Metrology Act
- The Property Practitioners Bill, which will repeal the Namibia Estates Agents Act, is at an advanced stage
- The Competition Bill is also in its final stages and will be aligned to the National Competition Policy 2020-2025
- Drafted the following publications
- National Informal Economy, Startups and Entrepreneurship Development Policy to support enterprise development and foster an entrepreneurial culture in the particular segments of the business sector
- National Cooling Strategy that ensures the development, promotion and regulations of the heating, ventilation, refrigeration and air-conditioning (HVAC) sectors under the Ministry's National Ozone unit.

3.2.3. INVESTMENT PROMOTION

The main purpose of this programme is to create an enabling environment for investment through appropriate legal and regulatory framework, investment research and incentives management, marketing strategy and after-care programme.

INVESTMENT POLICY

The main purpose of this programme is to create a conducive and competitive environment for business growth.

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW:

- The review of the Namibia Investment Promotion and Facilitation bill is at an advanced stage. The Ministry has so far undertaken five regional consultations including sessions with key stakeholders as well as lawmakers. MIT will continue with these engagements as planned and thereafter the Bill will be submitted to Cabinet and Parliament respectively.
- Work on the Investment Policy has also been initiated, with technical assistance from the SADC Secretariat. Stakeholder engagements, through questionnaires, meetings and interviews is currently ongoing.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Facilitated the enactment and promulgation of

- The Namibia Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill is expected to be promulgated, and encompasses the treatment and support for domestic and foreign investors
- Drafted the following publications
- Sustainable Special Economic Zone Bill built on the 2022-2027 National Policy Sustainable Special Economic Zones Policy
- Associated Accompanying Regulations for the SSEZ Bill that provides the outlay of operational modalities for the envisaged Namibian Special Economic zones regime
- Sustainable Special Economic Zones Sectoral incentives that build on the basic incentive regime outlined in the SSEZ Policy of 2022-2027
- Facilitated key National Stakeholder Engagements on NIPFA

3.2.4. SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

POLICIES SUPERVISION ACTIVITY

This programme is intended to ensure an enabling environment and a high performance culture. Policies Supervision This activity provides for appropriate policy guidelines of various programs and activities to ensure coordination and alignment to Ministerial Strategic Goals and National Development Goals (NDPs). Coordination and Support Services This Activity deals with the provision of administrative or supportive services that the various operational unit and agency of the Ministry require in order to execute their assigned core functions and achieve the strategic objectives as set in its Strategic Plan.

The table 4 below indicates the budget allocations and utilization:

	Budget	Expenditure	Utilization %
Operational Budget	243 556 000	242 387 965	99.5%
Development Budget	34 000 000	33 498 061.78	98.5%
Total	277 556 000	275 886 026.078	99.3%

3.2.5. SPECIAL INDUSTRIALISATION INITIATIVE

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

The programme is intended to increasing the contribution of productive sector to GDP and accelerates economic growth and activity by focusing on enhancing growth in priority sectors.



FOUR | CONCLUSION

The editorial team of this publication of the Annual Report would like to thank the Honorable Minister and Deputy Minister for their strong leadership during the year under review. They, together with other seniors in management, should be credited for accelerating the implementation of programmes and projects envisioned by our Ministry. Their collective leadership made it possible for the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade to reach out to local businesses in the private and public sectors in an aggressive drive towards economic growth, the creation of jobs and a more equitable distribution of wealth. Their outreach initiatives went beyond Namibia's borders in efforts to be part of regional, continental and global economic integration arrangements.

***Compiled by:
Elijah Mukubonda and Anna Salkeus: Corporate Communication
subdivision of the Ministry***



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SIX

ON THE OCCASSION OF THE MULTI STAKEHOLDERS
WORKSHOP ON THE NATIONAL DIAGNOSTIC OF
INFORMALITY

STATEMENT BY HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE ON THE OCCASSION OF THE MULTI STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP ON THE NATIONAL DIAGNOSTIC OF INFORMALITY WEDNESDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2023 SAFARI HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE WINDHOEK

The Master of Ceremony: Mr. Ebson Uanguta - Deputy Governor of Bank of Namibia
 Hon Utoni Nujoma : Minister of Labour, Industrial Relation and Employment Creation;
 Mr. Johannes !Gawaxab: Governor of Bank of Namibia;
 Your Excellency Hopolang Phororo: UN Resident Coordinator;
 Ms. Annamarie K. Kiaga: Specialist on Informal Economy, ILO Country Office for Namibia and Zimbabwe
 All Captains of both the Informal and Informal Industries present,
 All Senior Dignitaries Present from the International and National Development Cooperation Community; Entrepreneurs and Ecosystem Role players present;
 Leaders of our Civic Societies present;
 All Government Officials present;
 Members of the Media;
 Ladies and Gentlemen;
 Good Morning!

1. It is indeed a distinct honour to be amongst a coterie of our esteemed leadership present to deliver remarks at this important event.
2. The fact that four key speakers are gracing this event is a testimony to the value and appreciation attached to the Informal Economy of Namibia by the Namibian Government and our International Development Cooperation Partner, the United Nations.
3. Resultantly given that there will be addresses from other three speakers, I shall thus confine my remarks briefly to policy dimensions around the Informal Economy.
4. Enterprise Development is a key mandate of the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade (MIT). Moreover major emphasis is placed on appropriate policy solutions segmentation

looking at informal and formal economy, micro, small and large enterprises.

5. Much of our policy work has evolved around the formal enterprise development arena as evidenced by numerous policies pertaining to economic incentives, foreign direct investment, formal micro, small and medium enterprises and newer initiatives such as special economic zones.

6. Yet in policy pronouncements such as the MSME National Policy the intent to ensure a standalone policy for the Informal Economy is evidence of our commitment.

7. This commitment to foster, incubate, develop and facilitate the growth of the Informal Economy along with our partners is derived directly from our National Constitution.

8. Namibia's Constitution's Article 98 (Principles of Economic Order) advances a mixed economy which therefore also support explicitly the development of small scale, family and other entrepreneurs in the Informal Economy.

9. Our commitment and resolve is also as a matter of observing how informality is a constant feature of many developing and low - income countries.

10. Global estimates indicate around 50 percent (50%) of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP), more than 60 percent (60%) of the labour force and up to 90 percent (90%) of MSMEs operate in the Informal Economy.

11. Namibia is no different from the global trends as the Informal Economy is estimated at 24 percent of our GDP and contributing to around 56 percent of our labour force.

12. The Informal Economy is therefore a key lever for ensuring sustainable livelihoods, innovative and dynamic entrepreneurship especially to these who are vulnerable or less educated such as segments of women, youth who may have inclusivity limitations into the formal economy.

13. Despite the recognized benefits of the Informal Economy, it is also prudent to recognize the negative externalities present in its growth and development.

14. A key common feature which my counterpart from Labour Ministry is tasked with is social protection as an unguarded Informal Economy may not offer decent work to the multitudes of workers found in it and thus exacerbate poverty.

15. The vulnerability of employment in the Informal Economy may also lead to wage disparities between the formal and informal economies despite comparable skills leading to economic inequality.

16. Another common feature pertains to aspect of lack of formalization and the narrative of tax evasion or perception thereof.

17. Productivity is also a key matter in terms of informality as entities with low levels of productivity combined with a lack of access to affordable and the correct financing will not scale up-with concomitant impact on sustainable development.

18. Finally it is common to observe the exclusion of Informal Economy entrepreneurs from sector value chains development as they do not operate within the legal framework and therefore are not able to access procurement opportunities or be part of supplier development programmes.

19. To ensure a viable developmental approach to the Namibian Informality question, appreciating both the nature, benefits and binding constraints will be key. And that is exactly the aim of this workshop as an effort to allow us all to collectively ventilate on these aspects tackling formalization philosophy, gender and vulnerable groups mainstreaming, business regulation and cost of compliance, social protection, Market Access and Business Linkages, supporting the Decent Work agenda and policy support mechanisms and enhancement such as entrepreneurial training and infrastructure roll out for the sector such as Omatala.

20. The discussions of the next two days should not only focus on the role of government and the UN alone but also highlight the critical role of the Namibian Private Sector to help onboard one of its biggest segment-the Informal Economy.

21. Therefore our deliberations should look at various strategies pertaining to viable strategies to alleviate administrative and business compliance for the sector, leveraging technology for sectoral facilitation, developing a viable lobbying and network capital and creating an environment that allows scalability to ensure the effective transition from informality and or allow the sector to benefit from formal business supports mechanisms.

22. These strategies are also embellish in the draft National Informal Economy, Startups and Entrepreneurship Policy (NIESEP) which we as a Ministry will table for national stakeholders consultations.

23. Many of the features of NIESEP will be outline in our presentation later in the day but I shall outline some key features.

24. Firstly it is important that the Ministry recognize the Informal Economy to comprise of many and differentiated entities, from street vendors, micro-household business to a wide range of industries in all our economic sectors that are not formalized.

25. Our Policy also makes a clear distinction that it supports productive activities and not illegal and shadowy business that at times may be described as the underground economy. Drug peddling for example is not a policy target for the NIESEP.

26. Thus MIT policy allows for a formalization approach that fosters entrepreneurship as long as one is traceable be at formal structures or through your sector association or having a municipal area's health certificate.

27. The Policy also further looks at enabling environment such as ensuring an effective appreciation of the extent of informality, ensuring entrepreneurial training, supporting business infrastructure for the sector, mainstreaming digitalization and appreciating the development of an incentive regime for the sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen

28. It is opportune time at this juncture to make mention that the NIESEP will be supported by an attendant Act. This requirement comes directly from the Harambee Prosperity Plan II of 2021-2025. This actually demonstrates the Namibian Government resolve to ensure that the Informal Economy is fully embedded within the economic charter of Namibia.

29. Please therefore rest assured of our strong commitment as a Government as well as our readiness to work with you in developing and charting an appropriate roadmap for the Informal Economy of Namibia.

30. Let me therefore take this opportunity to wish all present here to the next two days consultative fruitful deliberations and of course successful outcomes!

I THANK YOU!



MIT IN PICTURES – TEAM BUILDING AND END OF YEAR FUNCTION







Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade



**DR. HAGE G.
GEINGOB**

1941-2024

May our beloved late President rest in eternal peace. May Madam Geingos, the entire bereaved family and the Namibian nation be comforted during this dark hour of bereavement.

...from Minister, Deputy Minister, ED & the entire MIT staff.

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