



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

**HON. TJEKERO WEYA, MP
MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME
DEVELOPMENT**

SOUTHERN AFRICA DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

MINISTRY OF LABOUR, CONFERENCE ROOM

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**Director of Ceremony,
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers, present here today
Honourable Members of Parliament,
European Delegation to Namibia,
Embassy representatives in Namibia,
Permanent Secretaries/ Accounting Officers,
Distinguished Captains of Industries,
Ms. Nangula Geingob - SADC TRF Project Coordinator
Distinguished Invited Guests
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

A very good morning to you all!

I am pleased to join you to celebrate and officiate the launching of SADC Trade Related Facility (TRF) here in Windhoek, Namibia.

I am deeply pleased to inform you that, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, through the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development (MISTMED), has commenced the implementation of the European Union (EU) funded Southern African Development Community (SADC) Trade Related Facility (TRF) Project in Namibia.

This launch is geared towards improving Namibia's regional disposition and to enhance trade related activities with the EU, its for this reason that - Namibia signed the Contribution Agreement with EU/SADC as one of the 12 Member States to benefit from the SADC TRF Project.

**Director of Ceremony,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to highlight the importance of SADC Trade Related Facility (TRF); chiefly, the TRF project is meant to strengthen the process of regional integration following the commitments undertaken by the SADC Member States under the Protocol on Trade (STP). Also, the TRF project seeks to assist with the effective implementation and monitoring of the SADC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the view to enhance its potential benefits, particularly in terms of improved market access of Namibian goods and services to the European Union.

The successful signing of the financial agreement between the Republic of Namibia and the SADC Secretariat stipulates that a total of €2, 600, 000 is to be availed of which € 1, 400 000 is provided under the STP window and € 1, 200 000 under the EPA

window. The financial agreement and the finalisation of an operational framework for the TRF Project was signed on 24 July 2017 and 4 December 2017 respectively.

Among the specific interventions which the project will expedite under the STP window include:

- The assessment in implementing the Industrial Upgrading and Modernisation Programme (IUMP) and the identifications of its institutional redesign and financing;**
- The Development and Implementation of targeted programmes to enhance productivity and competitiveness of firms, including participation in regional value chains;**
- The improvement of MITSMED to formulate and implement industrial policy and strategies;**
- The development of a demand-driven approach to industrial development;**
- As well as the implementation of business processes of key agencies involved in the National Single Window (NSW) System. The importance of enhancing the National Single Window is further committed under the EPA window.**

The SADC TRF will assist in the enhancement of the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) world systems to intersect

with the National Single Window (NSW) systems. The TRF, under the EPA window, will also support enhancing the capacity for effective implementation of the Rules of Origin. Furthermore, the TRF will interlink with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to improve the sanitary phytosanitary (SPS) environment and related standards, focusing on enhanced compliance of the competent authority on animal and plant health as well as fisheries.

**Director of Ceremony,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Project is envisaged to aid in enhancing private sector awareness of the opportunities from the SADC-EU EPA. Additionally, the TRF will work to strengthen the capacity in Competition Policy and Law, focusing on improving the institutional and regulatory framework of the Namibia Competition Commission thereby improving stakeholders' compliance with the Competition Policy and Law.

To end with, the SADC TRF Project will contribute towards the capacity development of Namibia to participate in trade in services liberalisation under the SADC Protocol on trade in services and the SADC-EU- EPA.

The Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development believes that the projects being identified and developed by our own beneficiary units will result in positive outcomes as Namibia aims to improve her participation in regional and international trade. This denotes an essential part of growing at home through the 'Growth at Home' strategy. On that note, I hereby wish to express our sincere appreciation on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia to the EU and SADC Executive for their financial and technical support.

**Director of Ceremony,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I hope that this platform will enable deliberations to identify and eliminate the challenges towards the implementation of the SADC-EPA Trade Related Facility project.

It is now my distinct honor to officially launch the SADC Trade Related Facility (TRF) project in Namibia.

THANK YOU!!!!

