



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

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

**OFFICIAL GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF NAMIBIA
PLASTICS PLANT**

06 MARCH 2018

Director of Ceremony;
Hon. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Chairperson of Namibia Plastics;
Johan Struwig; Co-founder and CEO of Namibia Plastics,
Namibia Plastics Management & Staff;
Sven Thieme; Ohlthaver & List Group - Executive Chairman,
Captains of Industry;
Members of the media;
Ladies and gentleman –

ALL PROTOCOL OBSERVED

It gives me great pleasure to speak to you this afternoon, I am delighted to be here, and very excited about the reason that brings us all together this afternoon.

Today's gathering is testimony to the commitment and dedication to growth, development and future of our country. It warms my heart when I see how our very own people and the business community make an effort to contribute to realising Namibia's Vision 2030 and prospects of being a solid developing nation.

Infrastructural development plays such a significant role in growing the local economy, and when I look at the effort made by some of our local leading players in the private sector, it affirms the reality that – the Public Private Partnership (PPP) in the

Namibia house has established a solid foundation enabling desired growth for the good of our country.

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

The Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development through the “Growth at Home” initiative, is committed to support industrial, trade, investment and business activities in the country.

“Our mandate is derived from Vision 2030 objective of becoming an industrialised nation as well as National Development Plans formulated every fifth year – placing emphasis on creating an enabling environment for economic growth and job creation”. Attached to these two, we have the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP), that’s targeting to accelerate development in effective governance and service delivery; economic advancement; social progression; infrastructure development; and international relations and cooperation. Hence, the need to strive and meet this particular objective

**Director of ceremony,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is a fact, that government alone cannot achieve Vision 2030, to implement the formulated National Development Plan, and the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) single handedly, hence, the need to work together as team and pull collectively in one direction towards the common goal. Therefore, the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development appreciates input from private sector in abetting to realise the goals of Government.

**Director of ceremony,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

The MITSMED theme of ‘Growth at Home’ reinforces the importance of accelerating economic growth, reducing income inequality and increasing employment. As a result, all MITSMED sector programmes are geared toward ensuring growing at home – from country to regional, from regional to constituency levels and all forms of existence at the grass root in our communities.

The act of ground breaking precedes clearing the site, the actual construction of the structure and many other activities. All these are to stimulate employment for our local people, to grow the economy and thus enhance revenue earnings of Government. Over the years, the construction sector has continued to boost the Namibia’s Economy and it’s expected without failure that, the

construction to be erected here will provide jobs for the Namibia people.

The Government of Republic of Namibia through the Targeted Intervention Program for Employment and Economic Growth (TIPEEG), grew the Namibian Economy by 4.8% in 2012, driven by the construction sector attributable to construction works in the public sector. Over the past six (6) years, above 27, 235 jobs were created (Source: Namibia Statistics Agency, 2012).

Through the construction of this plastic plant, we expect many Namibians to be accorded opportunities such as:

- **Internships**
- **On-the-job training**
- **Qualified training**
- **Beneficiaries (employees) to be transformed from being unskilled to semi-skilled – (improving their employability).**

In job categories such as:

- **Carpenters**
- **Construction Laborers**
- **Construction Managers**
- **Electricians**
- **Quantity Surveyors**
- **Architects**
- **Operating Engineers and other Equipment Operators**

I am glad to mention that, at this event, we are not only celebrating the groundbreaking but that, the actual building of the plant has already started. I am informed that, concrete has already being poured on the 1st floor of the 2660 sqm state-of-the-art factory building. What consoles me the most is that, the factory is envisaged to become operational before the end of this year.

For this reason, the following immediate benefits will be felt:

- **The plant will close the gap of an estimated 50% of plastic, currently imported from abroad (therefore, Namibia Plastics will become the 1st to manufacture the plastic products locally);**

This is a highly commendable move, taking into account that, plastic is a raw material that's recycled and re-used over and over again. This becomes a source of income for our rural communities to collect as many plastics as possible in exchange to receive cash back.

- **Off-course new jobs will be created;**

- **Skills will be transferred, including: material blending, extrusion, printing and finishing;**
- **Plastic products will become more accessible and affordable to everyone including the majority of our people in rural areas with low income;**
- **This positive impact will be felt country-wide on most industries that utilize the products – such as cement factories, food & beverage, transport, fishing, mining, agriculture and medical industries, etc.**
- **The ripple effect of this plant will also reach the SADC region, because the technology employed is rated as one of the best in the world:**
 - **Creating even more jobs because the plastic products will be exported to other beneficiaries outside our borders,**
 - **With this leading technology, Namibia as a country will be proudly promoted on all our products in the region.**

Talking about technology, ICT has greatly altered the structure and operation of all industries by evolving many aspects of business and creates many new business opportunities. For any existing business, the central question is whether technology is

relevant to your business and profit from it. I am glad technology is relevant in our case – Namibia Plastics.

Technology provides new ways to compete, enabling lower costs, enabling product/service differentiation and leveraging knowledge of employees. This is what we want in Namibia.

**Director of ceremony,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It's more than evident, that, the country is facing social and economic hardships. The current global economic pressure has played a significant role, and has directly affected the cost of living for everyone – and Namibia is not an exception.

The attainment of Vision 2030 is ONLY twelve (12) years away, whose particular objective is to improve the quality of life of the people of Namibia to the level of their counterparts in the developed world.

This is only possible through "partnerships", between government, communities, civil society, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations to achieve dynamic, efficient and sustainable development.

For such a tremendous pursuit, I want to commend the Namibia Plastics – Board members, management and staff;

for living the dream to ultimately bring the reverie to culmination by being committed to and contribute to the growth and development of the Namibian house. The significant investment of N\$ 95 million into this plant, will create an estimated 200 direct and indirect job opportunities during and after construction. Such a testimony is loud and clear, in support and vow to achieve the ideals and objectives of Vision 2030, NDP and the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

I want to applaud Johan Struwig (CEO), for pledging 10% of Namibia Plastics shareholding to the Staff, through a Staff Shareholders Trust. In doing so, you're acknowledging that, every staff is significant, and you value them whether a worker is a packer, cleaner, operator, manager or director - EVERYBODY matters and together you are a TEAM!!!

**Director of ceremony,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

As I conclude, I am thrilled yet again, to speak at this event that will strengthen both social and economic growth of our country. I

have no doubt in my mind, that holding all factors constant - the development of Namibia Plastics' factory plant will contribute immensely to the City of Windhoek and the Namibian economy at large.

Congratulations - Namibia Plastics for the bold step taken in the right direction to realise this exciting business venture. We look forward with absolute hope to witnessing the final outcome! Therefore, may all stakeholders render required support and play their part diligently in this equaltion of development.

I wish you all the best in our journey of growth and expansion, investing in our economy and actively contributing to the upliftment of lives for all Namibians in the Namibia House.

I thank you!