



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

ON THE

**OCCASION OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE WORLD METROLOGY DAY
AND THE HANDING OVER OF THE NSI MASS CALIBRATION LABORATORY
ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATE FROM THE SOUTHERN AFRICA
DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) ACCREDITATION SERVICE (SADCAS), 16**

MAY 2013

Director of Ceremonies

NSI Board of Directors and Management

Representatives of the Southern African Development Community

Accreditation Services (SADCAS)

Distinguished invited guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and gentlemen

I am delighted to join you and the international community to commemorate the World Metrology Day, scheduled for Monday, 20th May 2013, and to further witness the official hand-over of the Accreditation Certificate to the Mass Metrology Calibration Laboratory of the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI). The Certificate will be issued by the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS) – the multi economy accreditation body servicing Namibia and other SADC countries.

The World Metrology Day is commemorated on the 20th of May every year to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875, which provides the basis for a global coherent measurement system.

This Day is also marked to raise awareness about the significance of accurate, reliable and internationally accepted methods of measurements in everyday life.

I am therefore, pleased to note that the theme for this year's commemoration of World Metrology Day is entitled; "Measurement in Daily Life," What an appropriate theme indeed!

Director of Ceremonies;

Simply put; Metrology is the science of measurement and its application, and it includes all the theoretical and practical aspects of measurement, which is divided into scientific, industrial and legal metrology.

Scientific metrology deals with organisation and development of national measurement standards and their maintenance, while industrial metrology ensure the adequate functioning of measurement instruments used in industries, production and testing processes.

Legal metrology deals with measurements that influence the transparency of economic transactions and in that way, it seeks to protect and assure consumers of correct measurement results utilised in commercial and other related transactions.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

From the foregoing, Metrology, therefore, facilitates fair trade through harmonised written standards, consistent measurement standards and internationally accepted certificates.

It supports regulation by providing measurement references for policy advice, directives, conformity assessment, and verification. As such, no quantity can be correctly and consistently measured without metrology and its associated metrological infrastructure.

Namibia is represented by the National Metrology Institute (NMI) and NSI as an associate member of the General Conference of Weights and Measures (BIPM) and is a Corresponding member of the International Organisation for Legal Metrology (OIML).

International agreements and decisions concerning trade and the social well-being of people increasingly require mutual recognition of measurements and tests among nations. The absence of such mutual recognition is considered a non-tariff technical barrier to trade and an impediment to environmental and health-related decision-making. In recent years, mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) have been established related to testing and calibration services.

All of these agreements rest upon the assumption of equivalence of national measurement standards and the reliability of the link between

national measurement standards and the relevant testing services in each country. In this regard, Namibia is a signatory to the General Conference of Weights and Measures (BIPM) MRA.

Director of Ceremonies;

Cabinet in 1999 adopted the National Quality Policy (NQP) of Namibia, which places Namibia amongst the very few countries which have a NQP, and this is proof of the Government's commitment to quality and productivity. Namibia's national quality infrastructure outlines the interplay between standards, accreditation, certification, testing and metrology and its focus is on the protection of consumers, as well as the facilitation of trade, regional integration and Namibia's supply-side capacity and competitiveness.

As you may recall, Parliament in 2005 passed the Metrology Amendment Act, 2005 (Act No. 17 of 2005). The provisions of this Act are however no longer in line with the modern state of the science of measurement.

In order for Namibia to achieve its objectives as "A prosperous and industrialised Namibia" as set out in Vision 2030 and to gain a competitive edge both within the SADC Region and internationally, there is no other choice than to rely on a developed national quality

infrastructure in order to provide the much needed services to local producers and service providers. It is therefore, pleasing to note that both the NDP4 and Industrial Policy place emphasis on the development and strengthening of the National Quality Infrastructure in support of trade and industrialization, protection of health and safety of consumers and the environment.

As such, we are in the process of developing a new Metrology legislation.

This initiative is also necessary to harmonise Namibia's metrology legislation with regional and international requirements, in particular the recommendations of the International Organisation for Legal Metrology (OIML) and the SADC Cooperation in Legal Metrology (SADCMEL).

Director of Ceremonies,

In addition to the commemoration of the World Metrology Day, we are also here to witness an achievement of another milestone in the continuous development of the NSI. This occasion coincides with the official handover of the Accreditation Certificate to the NSI Mass Metrology Calibration Laboratory, by Southern Development Community Accreditation Services (SADCAS).

The accreditation of the NSI Mass Metrology Calibration Laboratory demonstrates compliance with the international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005, which relates to general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. This is Namibia's first accredited Metrology Calibration Laboratory.

The National Metrology Institute (NMI) for Namibia is responsible for the establishment of a national measurement traceability system through maintenance of national measurement standards and dissemination of the traceability by providing calibration of mass pieces of the industry.

Director of Ceremonies,

Allow me to highlight some achievement that Namibia has made in the area of Metrology. Firstly, in 2012, Namibia was formally admitted as an associate member of the General Conference for Weights and Measures (CGPM) of the BIPM. This enables the NSI National Metrology Institute to actively participate in the Joint Committee of Regional Metrology Organisations and the BIPM (JCRB).

Furthermore, Namibia was also formally admitted as a corresponding member to the International Organisation for Legal Metrology (OIML), thus enabling the country to gain access to information useful in

developing applicable metrology legislation and developing procedures for calibration and verification of measuring equipment.

Director of Ceremonies,

The mandate of the NSI, which is articulated in the Standards Act, 2005, remains critical to the achievement of the country's national development agenda. As a specialised agency of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the work that the NSI performs is complementary to the programmes of the Ministry. As you may be aware, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has developed the industrial policy for Namibia, the Growth at Home Strategy and a National Industrial Upgrading and Modernization Programme (IUMP) all with emphasis on boosting local production, supply and export capacity and the efficiency and competitiveness of local firms and traders, employment and wealth creation.

In the implementation of both the IUMP and the Industrial Policy, the NSI and standardisation are expected to play important functions. The NSI should, therefore, continue to position itself to play a key role in the enhancement of the quality and competitiveness of local firms, and industries as well as locally produced and imported goods.

Given reported cases of misleading or lack of proper labelling of products, I have tasked the NSI to pay special focus and attention to developing capabilities to deal with these issues and safeguard consumers and the local economy in general. This include imports of sub-standard goods.

Director of Ceremonies,

It is, with great joy that I take this opportunity to congratulate the Namibia Standards Council, Management and staff of the NSI for the valuable role that the Institution is playing in the economy and as a vital instrument of Government since its formation.

Director of Ceremonies,

I also wish to encourage all stakeholders to make use of the various services provided by the Ministry and its Agencies including the NSI.

Finally, I wish to reiterate the Government's commitment towards the provision of a conducive environment for both the public and private sectors to invest and do business in Namibia.

I thank you