



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**STATEMENT BY
HON. TJEKERO TWEYA
DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
ON THE OCCASION OF THE KATUTURA
CENTRAL EXPO 2013**

KATUTURA MULTIPURPOSE YOUTH STADIUM, WINDHOEK

2 AUGUST 2013

Director of Ceremonies

Hon. Ambrosius Kandjii, Councillor of Katutura Central Constituency

Hon. Martin David, Acting Chairperson of Khomas Regional Council

Her Worship Mrs. Agnes Kafula, Mayor of the City of Windhoek

Invited Captains of Industry

Members of the media

Ladies and gentlemen

1. It gives me a great honour and pleasure to officiate at this very important occasion the third (3rd) Katutura Expo 2013.
2. I wish to congratulate the Katutura Central Constituency management team for organizing and hosting this very important event and the sponsors for availing their financial and human resources to support the Katutura Central Constituency to make this event a reality. This is a very important event, whose main objective, amongst others, is to showcase products and services of the Katutura community, as well as products from other parts of the country.
3. This year, Katutura Central Expo is being held under the theme, "Unity in Diversity".
4. I am pleased to note that the theme of this year's expo clearly demonstrates that the Katutura community and Namibia at large recognizes the diversity among our society and remain united in

tackling the social development challenges that faces our communities. I am glad that after 23 years of independency, the Namibian societies have matured to this level.

5. Historically, Katutura was created to segregate the Namibian communities based on ethnic groups which the then South African Apartheid Regime thought will conquered through the ideology of divide and rule. But today after 23 years we are celebrating “Unity and Diversity” in our societies.
6. This expo is very important in the sense that it brings all the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) of Katutura and Namibia at large together to share ideas that will lead to creation and development of new enterprises, job opportunities and poverty alleviation in our communities.

Director of Ceremonies; Ladies and Gentleman

7. The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) is committed to promoting these local economic activities and initiatives geared towards achieving economic growth, job creation, accelerating business development, growth and entrepreneur development in our economy.
8. Expos are platform where business networks and relationships are formed between customers, producers and suppliers that will sustain the survival of a business.

9. The MTI is supportive of this expo and others around the country because they assist towards the development of our economy and the achievement of our national goals and objectives of Vision 2030. In addition, this expo will lead to economic development; new employment opportunities in our economy, accelerate industrial development in our economy and assist in poverty alleviation in our communities. Because after this expo, many new business opportunities will be created among you, the SME.

Director of Ceremonies; Ladies and Gentleman

10. The Government of Namibia believes that investments especially in the manufacturing, farming and agro-processing business sectors are key fundamental to economic growth of our country. Therefore, investment in these sectors has the potential to assist in achieving desired economic growth and development and secure investment that can create sustainable employment in our communities.

11. We from the MTI will continue to implement our mandate of supporting your activities and programs aimed at assisting existing upcoming and potential entrepreneurs like the SMEs of Katutura to develop, grow and expand their businesses; and new and aspiring entrepreneurs to conceptualize and translate their business ideas into bankable business plans and actual self-employment businesses, including those in the agricultural sector. I am happy to see that the management of the Katutura Central Expo have included an

agricultural show of various livestock breeds on this expo because we Namibian should be aspired to be farmers due to the favorable weather condition that we have in this country.

12. Our Government believes that the SME sector is the most important sources of sustainable employment creation and viable contributors to national economic growth and development. In this regard, the Government through the MTI has devised deliberate programs aimed at promoting the development of the SME sector in our economy.

13. Currently the MTI is focusing on the following targeted interventions programs aimed at building the technical and managerial capacities of local enterprises, especially SMEs, such as:

- The provision of affordable business premises for production and trading purposes. In order to enhance our SMEs production capacities, the MTI provides operational facilities to our SME.
- We have put in place an Equipment Aid Scheme through which existing and aspiring entrepreneurs are provided with equipment on a cost-free lease basis, a lot of members from the Katutura community have benefited from this scheme.
- The other business support services that we provide include assistance to aspiring entrepreneurs to translate their raw business ideas into bankable business plans as well as mentoring services to

established businesses that are facing operational constraints and/or want to grow. And many of Katutura businesses are benefiting from this service.

- We also provide financial assistance and advisory services to enable Namibian entrepreneurs to exhibit and sell their products at home and in foreign markets which some of you have benefited.
- In order to ease access to finance, we have supported the establishment of the SME Bank and we are still supporting its activities in the development of our local SMEs.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and gentlemen;

14. The provisions of these services and programs are helping many of our local business people and SMEs to get their businesses off the ground, but as a nation we need to do more to help them to improve the operation of their businesses. I therefore urge the private sector especially the financial institutions to welcome our SMEs in the banks for financial assistance in terms of easy access to loans and other services that can bring improvement to the SME sector so that the sector can contribute adequately to our national economic development agenda. These will help create job opportunities to many Namibians who are seeking employment in our societies.

15. The support of the private financial institutions to our SME can help them develop, expand and boost our economic development

and accelerate our industrial development and achieve our national strategic goal of realization Vision 2030.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and gentleman;

16. There is no doubt that with Government and private sector support and the willingness of the people to work hard; there are great prospects for development in all parts of our country including the Katutura community and other least developed communities in our country. I am confident that this expo will create many opportunities to our SMEs in Katutura and our local farmer country wide.

17. I urge the community of Katutura to approach our private financial institutions to seek finances and also team up with potential investors to form joint ventures to explore other investment opportunities in the retailing sector and other investment opportunities in our economy.

18. In conclusion, I would like to thank the Katutura Central Constituency for organizing and hosting this expo that will lead to many opportunities to improve the livelihood of our Katutura SMEs and other SMEs in our country.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and gentlemen

19. With these remarks, it is now my distinct honour to officially welcome you to the Katutura Central Expo, have successful business engagement and enjoy the expo.

I thank you.