



*Republic of Namibia*

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**BY**

**HON. CALLE SCHLETTWEIN,  
MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTRODUCTION CEREMONY OF  
YU TIAN STONE PRODUCT FACTORY,  
A PART OF THE BEST CHEER STONE GROUP  
AT  
WALVIS BAY**

**MONDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2014**

Director of Ceremonies;

Honourable Ministers;

Honourable Cleophas Mutjavikua, Governor of Erongo Region;

H.E. Mr. Xin Shunkang - Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Namibia;

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Distinguished Captains of Industry;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Allow me to first of all express my gratitude to Yu Tian Stone Products Namibia (Pty) Ltd and the Best Cheer Stone Group, for having invited me to be part of the opening of this magnificent factory.

The fact that Yu Tian Stone Product Factory here on the outskirts of Walvis Bay has set up a state of the art processing plant, which will produce tiles, slabs, mosaics and other finished marble and granite products is indeed god news for our economy.

It confirms that the investor climate in Namibia is stable and favourable and it recognises the high potential of developing viable commodity based value chains, in this case granite and

marble dimension stone, with the objective to transform raw materials into market ready finished goods of high quality.

Namibia's economic growth is still depending to a large extent on investments in the primary sector and specifically in extractive industries. In order to sustain and even enhance high levels of economic growth we must diversify the economy towards a stronger secondary sector. Such growth must be job rich, it must create wealth and that wealth must be shared equitably. To achieve meaningful economic growth in the secondary sector we need investment, be it domestic or foreign direct investment that satisfies our terms and remain attractive to the private sector.

Now, you will agree with me that a good investment therefore will be one that satisfies both, the terms of the host nation and shareholder needs. This shared responsibility of Government and the private sector to bring about win-win situations, whether they are big, medium or small enterprises they are all important to the growth of the economy and the creation of wealth.

I am happy to learn that your organisation through Best Cheer Stone Group as a leading Stone Material Supplier, Producer and

developer in the Dimension Stone Industry in the world, is committed to comply with our terms. I have been informed that training and empowering is high on your business development agenda. Employees will receive training through a high-quality on-site training programme and you aim at reaching high monthly production targets and ensuring the safety of your employees during the mining and manufacturing activities, which are not without safety challenges.

It is my fervent hope that you will deepen your localisation programme by also considering shared ownership in your company with the view to empower Namibians and to ensure true win-win situation between the Chinese and Namibian nationals.

I am therefore pleased to witness and be part of this exciting investment of Best Cheer Stone Group. I can assure you that you are in a very promising locality indeed. Namibia is rated highly as an investor destination and we pride ourselves of being one of the best rated emerging economy with excellent market access into the African continent, but also globally.

Walvis Bay is destined to become the logistical hub for the SADC region and you have to your avail a set of reliable and sophisticated services, be it financial, ITC, transport and port facilities. This is why you have assured me of your long term expansion plans in Namibia.

I am grateful in noting that you as a company share our vision that only when the business combines their own interest with the interests of the local people in the host country together, the business will then have the long term vitality. I am equally thankful in recognising your company's endeavours to expand the company's productive capacity and with that our shared expectations of a growing manufacturing sector.

Director of Ceremonies; Ladies and Gentlemen

The investment of 300-million Namibian dollars by the Best Cheer Stone Group into Yu Tian Stone Products Namibia (Pty) Ltd for machinery and capital in Namibia is a first step and I am reliably informed that the Best Cheer Stone Group is committed to further diversification in the various areas of Namibia where you have quarries in cooperation with local Namibians, mainly at Karibib, Omaruru, Okombahe and Usakos.

Director of Ceremonies; Ladies and Gentlemen

In concluding, I wish that this factory be a resounding success to the mutual benefit of Namibia and China and that once fully completed it will become the biggest processing plant not only in Namibia, but Africa as a whole.

I wish you good returns, good partnerships, good health and successful endeavours in Namibia. Together we can make Namibia a better place for all.

I Thank You All!