

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



## STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

AT THE OCCASION OF THE  
**BIPA LOGO COMPETITION PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY**

**22 MAY 2013**

Director of Ceremony,  
Distinguished Members of the Interim Board BIPA  
The Top Ten Finalists of the BIPA Logo Competition  
Members of the Media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my distinct honour and privilege to address you this morning at this special occasion. As the Minister responsible for the trade and industry, BIPA enjoys a special place in my heart thus when the request was extended to me to officiate at this event I responded favourably without an ounce of hesitation.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

One of the main pre-occupations of the Government is to create and ensure conditions and opportunities for job creation, economic growth and socio-economic development. It is common knowledge that the prime source of employment and growth in an economy is private sector investments and business establishments. It is equally true that the ease with which an entrepreneur or investor can set up and operate a business as well as the protection of industrial property rights are important considerations in investment decisions.

As such, the process of business registration and licensing is crucial as an effective business registration system and processes will facilitate and increase the rate of business establishment, investments and growth of existing enterprises. The more businesses are incorporated and become operational, the more business activities and employment opportunities can be expected.

As we all know, Namibia has over the years slipped in ranking in terms of various competitiveness ranking indices, with a negative impact of the perception of the country's image as an investment location. One of the main areas of weakness is *starting a business*. So in addition to achieving our national goals, an effective business and IPR registration system will also enhance the country's competitiveness regionally and globally.

Over the past years, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has introduced an automated integrated business registration system and other measures with the aim of speeding up the registration and consequent establishment of businesses in the country. Some positive results have been recorded, but we are not yet where we want to be.

Our drive towards improving the ease of doing business is aimed at reducing the cost and time it takes to register and start a business in our country by introducing efficiency enhancing measures. These include the introduction of mobile and online registration wherever our people have access to computers and the internet; simplification of the

requirements and procedures for applying for business and intellectual property rights registration; and the establishment of an integrated (one-stop-shop) client service center.

In order to improve service delivery and the effective administration of business and intellectual property rights registration, the Ministry of Trade and Industry has championed the creation of the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA) to serve as the one-stop-center for all business and IPR registration and related matters, on behalf of the Government. In this connection, BIPA has since been established in terms of Section 21 of the Companies Act, pending the enactment of the enabling legislation that will transform it into a fully-fledged State-owned agency.

In short, BIPA will serve as the central focal point for the registration, administration and protection of businesses, commercial and industrial properties rights as well as the legal depository of information, documents and data required to be lodged under the applicable legislations. BIPA will further be tasked with the provision of general advisory services and information dissemination on business registration and intellectual properties rights.

It is my sincere hope that the establishment of BIPA and the expected improved business registration services will see an increase in the number of not only registered but operational businesses, which should

in turn stimulate employment and wealth creation and economic growth.

Ladies and gentlemen

As part of its operationalization, BIPA requires a corporate identity, which reflects its mandate, corporate vision and mission. In this connection, Logo Design Competition was launched in search of distinctive artistry to give a vivid expression of what BIPA stands for in the form of a corporate Logo. I am told that the competition has been a resounding success evidenced by the high volume of entries received. I wish to thank all those who took part in the competition, and I wish to particular congratulate the top 10 finalists for their creativity.

With these few remarks, I would now like to invite you to witness the unveiling of corporate Logo of the Business and Intellectual Property Authority (BIPA).

I thank you