



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT

BY

**CHG SCHLETTWEIN, MP
MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

*At the launch of the “MANUFACTURING & PROCESSING NAMIBIA
Directory: 2014 Edition”*

18 March 2013

Director of Ceremonies

Mr Brian Black, Chairman of the NMA,

Mr Ronnie Varkevisser, CEO of the NMA,

Distinguished captains of industry and manufacturers,

Esteemed Invited Guests

Representatives of other Government Offices and Ministries
present

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen

I am delighted and wish to express my gratitude to the leadership of NMA for inviting me to launch the Manufacturing and Processing Directory 2014 edition. This is an important milestone as it is the very first time that we are availed with a comprehensive directory of business entities that manufacture in Namibia either finished goods or intermediaries, or provide services with home grown expertise.

Director of Ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen

The manufacturing sector plays a strategic role in economic development and is the component of industry that presents significant opportunities for sustained growth, employment and poverty reduction through value addition, or said differently, through transforming raw materials to intermediaries or finished goods. In NDP4, the manufacturing sector is identified as a priority which in the year 2012 generated exports to the value of N\$21 billion, the equivalent to 53 per cent of total exports of goods of that year. Of the N\$21 billion, 49 per cent consisted of food products and beverages, 13 per cent of refined zinc and blister copper, and the remainder of other manufactured goods.

The constant growth in the sector (1.2 per cent in both 2011 and 2012) can mainly be attributed to the sub-sector 'other food product and beverages that recorded an increase of 6.5 per cent in real value added, following a decline of 5.4 per cent a year earlier. This sub-sector alone contributed 40.4 per cent of the total manufacturing in 2012 (NSA, National Account 2012).

According to the NSA, Labour Force Survey 2012, there are 28 409 employed workers in the manufacturing and related

industries which effectively comprises 4.5% of the total labour force. This figure clearly shows that the sector is relatively small, and thus calls for concerted efforts to increase its GDP contribution through the multiplier effects and linkages. Equally important is the sector's ability to bring about growth in the labour market, create wealth and distribute such wealth more equitable and improve technical skills. Although the Ministry, in consultation with key stakeholders, is at an advanced stage of finalizing the Industrial Policy Implementation Framework Strategy, a dedicated Namibia's Manufacturing Strategy will have to be developed, sooner rather than later, in order to guide our medium to long term efforts regarding the Manufacturing Sector as focus of our commodity-based industrialization strategy "Growth at home".

Director of Ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen

As a Government, we are aware that manufacturers in our country are facing various challenges that constrain their ability to produce and compete effectively at home and in export markets elsewhere. We are also aware of the high cost of technology, utilities, production input, finance, transport and logistics, as well as shortage of skills, to mention a few. On the

other hand, the industry sector is under constant pressure to cut costs, to improve quality, to meet environmental and international standards and to penetrate markets with more competitive products. Therefore, we feel strongly that the ease to do business in Namibia and especially to establish manufacturing entities in Namibia has to be improved.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry continues to promote Manufacturing and Entrepreneurship Development in the country through its Business Support Service Programs. I am pleased to inform you that in the current financial year a total of 1006 Companies, most of them being SMEs, were assisted under the Ministry's Support Programs. The total number is illustrated in the table below:

Table 1: Number of Beneficiaries per program

Programme Name	Number of Beneficiaries
Equipment Aid Scheme	562
Training (Entrepreneurs Trained)	360
Feasibility Studies, Environment Impact assessment and Business Plans	66
Industrial Upgrading and Modernization Programme	12

Rental Space	5
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Allow me to applaud the Namibia Manufacturing Association for continuous advocacy and facilitation of sustainable, competitive and prosperous manufacturing/processing industry for the benefit of all stakeholders in the country.

Director of Ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen

We had announced last year that our company registry will be transformed into an on-line facility aimed at improving turn-around times for company registration. I am very happy to inform that three functions of the company registry are available on-line, namely company name registration, company name queries and confirmation, and a SMS facility informing customers about the status of applications.

The document we are about to launch today provides a platform for Namibia's manufacturing industry to showcase its capabilities, products and services, as well as to serve as an

information guide of manufacturers and processors. We therefore want to encourage all players in the industry (Manufacturers, processor and suppliers) to participate in future editions, making it an annual publication to look forward to.

This directory should be made available to all Ministries, State Owned Enterprises, the Tender Board, retailers and distributors and other private sector entities and the consumers so that all of us can support Namibia's manufacturing sector and Namibian service providers. Sourcing locally has now been made much easier and my appeal is to all procurement agents to utilize this directory extensively and support local manufacturers and value chains optimally.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the end of my brief statement and it is now my pleasure to officially launch the Namibian Manufacturing and Processing Directory.

And I thank you