

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON THE OCCASION
OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE TESTING
AND INSPECTION CENTRE BUILDING OF THE
NAMIBIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTION (NSI)**

17 OCTOBER 2014

WALVIS BAY

Check Against Delivery

**Director of Ceremonies,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Your Worship, Councillor Uilika Nambahu, Mayor
of Wavis Bay,
Honourable Regional and Local Authority
Councillors,
Ms. Asteria Nasheya, Member of the Namibian
Standards Council and other Members of the
Namibian Standards Council,
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic
Corps,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Today marks yet another momentous occasion
where our Government can demonstrate the
significant importance it attaches to infrastructural
capacity building in our country.**

**In fulfilling our obligations as a signatory to the
World Trade Organisation (WTO)'s Technical
Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement, Namibia
embarked on a process of restructuring the national
quality infrastructure and the development of a
national quality system, starting in December 1997.
This culminated in the adoption of the National
Quality Policy (NQP) of Namibia by the Cabinet on
1st June 1999.**

The Namibia Standards Institution (NSI) was subsequently established, as a Section 21 entity, under the Companies Act, 1973, (Act 61 of 1973), pending the entry into force of the Standards Act, 2005 (Act No. 18 of 2005). The Standards Act has now duly entered into force and the NSI now operates as a State Owned Enterprise established in terms of Section 2 of that legislation.

The establishment of the NSI was a strategic decision by Government to ensure that the country has adequate facilities that are capable of carrying the necessary laboratory tests and measurements to ensure that locally produced goods and services comply with the relevant standards, as well as enforcement of the relevant laws and regulations.

As the national standards body (NSB), the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) has the mandate not only to coordinate and manage the implementation of the National Quality Policy, but also, to promote standardisation, quality assurance and conformity assessment through inspections, testing and metrology in Namibia.

The National Quality Policy establishes the legislative framework that underpins the functioning of Namibia's national quality infrastructure. One of the laws adopted as part of the National Quality Policy implementation process was the Standards Act No. 18 of 2005.

We believe that the successful implementation of the National Quality Policy will contribute to the acceleration of the industrialisation of our economy as envisaged in Vision 2030.

The National Quality Policy recognises the need to harness available resources to accelerate our country's socio-economic development. It also places emphases on the need to regulate the Namibian market for the protection of the consumers and secure level playing fields for the economic operators in the Namibian market place.

Director of Ceremonies

The Government fully supports the vital role played by the enforcement of standards in improving industrial efficiency and facilitating trade. Standards effectively remove technical barriers to trade, leading to new market opportunities and economic growth.

They provide industries and consumers with the framework for achieving economies of design, greater product and service quality, increased interoperability of products, and improved production and delivery systems.

Namibia has made progress in improving economic and physical infrastructure, taking advantage of the advances in information and communication technology, manufacturing techniques, automation, transportation and changes in numerous other aspects that affect trade and industry. The ultimate aim is to increase the trade volumes within the country and between Namibia, our neighbours as well as other trading partners.

The standards adopted by the NSI must contribute to the successful development of the four priority sectors of the Namibian economy identified in the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4), particularly the manufacturing and agriculture sectors.

The Government will monitor the extent to which the NSI's annual programmes contribute to the growth of these sectors and therefore the realisation of the Growth at Home Strategy.

Government will also support your national programmes on condition that there are tangible results brought about by the NSI's contribution to high and sustained economic growth, increased income equality and employment creation in the country.

The Government continues to support regional and continental integration through initiative by the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union.

We want to see institutions such as the NSI, serving as catalysts to boost trade with the growing markets through which Namibia can diversify the destinations for our goods and services in Africa, Asia and Latin America, in addition to its traditional trading partners. Trade within Africa, in particular, is very important for the future sustainability of Namibia's economic development.

Many of the fastest growing economies in the world today are in Africa and the continent is increasingly becoming an important investment destination. Namibia strongly supports African integration and creation of the African Economic Community provided for in the Abuja Treaty of 3rd June 1991.

Namibia must stand ready take advantage of the larger African market. Local businesses must position themselves to produce goods and supply services to African countries and further afield. In this manner, more jobs will be created locally for our unemployed youth and women.

Director of Ceremonies

Today, we are here to witness the inauguration of the Testing Wing of the building housing the NSI. The construction of the Inspection Wing is expected to commence at the start of the 2015/2016 Financial Year. This will give the NSI the required capacity to carry out its mandate fully.

It a source of pride that within a relatively short period of time, the NSI's Fishery Inspectorate had managed to obtain accreditation. Similarly, the Food Laboratory has also received accreditation from Regional accreditation bodies such as the Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS). I am informed that Namibia's trading partners in the European Union carried out an audit mission to Namibia from 27 February to 7 March 2012 in order to evaluate the control systems governing the production of marine products intended for export to the EU.

The mission concluded that the official control systems of the NSI, as the Competent Authority, covering the production of fishery products intended for export to the EU is not only acceptable but is also equivalent to those of other accredited countries.

This declaration by the EC delegation has guaranteeing continued access of Namibia's fisheries products to the EU. It is commendable that a new institution such as the NSI has put in place strong systems. I have no doubt this institution will continue to grow from strength to strength. I wish you success in your future endeavours.

It is now my distinct pleasure to declare this state-of-the-art facility officially inaugurated.

I thank you.