



*Republic of Namibia*

**STATEMENT**  
**BY**  
**HON. IMMANUEL NGATJIZEKO**  
**MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT**  
**ON**  
**THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING**  
**OF**  
**THE PUBLIC SEMINAR ON SADC INDUSTRIALISATION STRATEGY AND**  
**ROADMAP**  
**AT**  
**NAMPOWER CONVENTION CENTRE**  
**ON**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2015**

**Director of Ceremonies**

**Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers Present**

**Senior Government Officials**

**Distinguished members of the media**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Morning to You All,

It is with tremendous pride and appreciation for me to proffer these few opening remarks at the very first Public Seminar to disseminate our work as government as directed by our President, His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob.

We are gathered here today to discuss very pressing aspects of regional Industrialization attempts at the Southern African Development Community (SADC) level and how to effectively implement and optimize on this as Namibia. In April this year, the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap was officially launched in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap is the blueprint for our regional efforts towards the attainment of our economies' structural transformation. The Strategy and Roadmap is essentially underpinned by the adoption of national Industrial Policies as well as the implementation of the Industrial Upgrading and Modernization Programme (IUMP) across all member states.

This programme, together with the other interventions in place to stimulate SME growth, innovation, and technological upgrading are the very foundation of our Industrialization activities. Often we say there's no time to lose; well there really isn't much time in this case for us as SADC member states.

We need to attain certain targets and goals as soon as possible and only through collaboration and consensus amongst us as member states can we achieve this. Our SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap' targets are no mean feat. We want to achieve an average salary of US\$ 9,000 per capita by 2050, increasing this to US\$ 17,000 by 2063. We need to do this as a vital necessity and for the very survival of the region. This is the level where our Industrialization ambitions are to be optimized.

**Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

This is truly an historic seminar, the first ever Public Seminar on Industrialization efforts as directed by our President, His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob. Usually and in the past this has always been the domain of lower level officials and discussions. Always kicking this hot potato about in focus groups, committees and task forces! But, never really getting anywhere and certainly not putting the required gravitas and power behind it that Cabinet Level can and now does. We are now ready as a nation and as SADC to embark on a new mission.

**Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

During the negotiations phases of the Strategy and Roadmap, Namibia as a member state essentially mimic negotiations tactics as espoused by His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob, our then Minister of Trade and Industry. As we all know by now, His Excellency's approach resulted in the EPAs (European Economic Partnership Agreements) to be developed in a much more mutually beneficial platforms of engagement as opposed to unequal economic trading relations.

As in the EPAs negotiations, we ensured that the Strategy and Roadmap recognize the central role of government as an active and not passive agent of industrial change; the fostering and enhancement of member states' industrial policy space and imbuing social and environmental safeguards in our industrial development efforts.

These interventions, we firmly believed, are part of a coherent approach to ensure that our industrialization efforts will lead to the region to become a force to be reckoned with internationally. Furthermore, we were of the opinion that the adoption of such an approach will allow us to make pragmatic and implementable decisions for the Industrial Policy of Namibia.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap is premised on three pillars, which are:

- **Industrialization as champion of economic and technological transformation.**

- **Enhanced competitiveness at company, industry, country and regional level.**
- **Regional integration as the context for industrial development.**

We need to be aware and mindful of the fact that none of these 3 pillars were conceived in a vacuum. They are part and parcel of a national, regional, African and global Industrialisation eco-system. Our existing Bilateral Cooperation with Angola and South Africa already highlights this fact.

Furthermore what is essential to note is that Namibia made remarkable progress towards attaining these pillars. The adoption of our Industrialization Policy in 2012 and the launch of the Industrial Upgrading and Modernization Programme (IUMP) financed by Namibia herself, demonstrates our commitment to these pillars.

This is extremely critical and telling; as it demonstrates that we as a nation see the importance of this and are not just *'talking the talk'*, but actually *'walking the walk.'* By financing and investing in this Industrialisation effort at every level, Namibia is truly looking to the future.

**Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Our nation's budget is geared to this and the Ministry has even changed its name to reflect the importance of all aspects of our economy and especially the SME sector, we are now called; **Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development (MITSD).**

This is the clearest statement we as a government, nation and a region can make when it comes to our intentions. Through the projects, through investments and through bi-lateral agreements with our local, regional and international trading partners and organisations, many of which are represented here today.

We are definitely making headway and the Namibia Industrial Development Agency Bill (NIDA), our Industrial Development implementation arm is in its finalization stages, has been approved by Cabinet and is now with the Legal Drafters. This means that we can and will very soon be able to implement practically what we are talking about. No longer are we discussing 'what if'...we are now discussing 'When's'.

## **Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Each of our nations has hopes, dreams and aspirations for their countries, its children and future generations. Whether it is in the form of Vision 2030 or as National Development Plans, we all want and need to tackle the enormous challenges of unemployment, unequal wealth distribution and poverty. Not only because it is the right thing to do, but it comes right down to the very core of our survival as countries, our competitiveness at all levels and it is what we owe ourselves and our citizens.

At the very foundation of achieving any of this and not just paying lip-service to it, is **Industrialisation**. But, also **Innovation** and let's be honest, plain hard work from everyone at every level constantly and consistently working on the vision encompassed in the National Industrial Policy and its implementing framework 'The Growth at Home Strategy'.

In Conclusion, I want to again thank you for your commitment, your presence and I am sure we can have fruitful deliberations during this seminar. Let's seize this unique opportunity and make things happen!