



*Republic of Namibia*

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**  
**TALKING NOTES**

BY

**CALLE SCHLETTWEIN**  
**MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

AT THE

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF A BRANCH OF AGRIMARK & EXPRESSMARK**  
**IN REHOBOTH**

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013

The Director of Ceremonies

Hon. Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, Governor of the Hardap Region

Councilor Eva Maasdorp, Her Worship the Mayor of Rehoboth

Mr. Sean Walsh, Managing Director of Kaap Agri Namibia

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It gives great pleasure to be here tonight to officiate at the opening of this Agrimark and Expressmark branch in Rehoboth. I am particularly thankful to Kaap Agri Namibia for the invitation.
2. The agriculture and agro-processing sector is a very important sector and one of the main pillars of our economy, namely as a source of livelihood for a large number of our people and in terms of its contribution to employment and contribution to our GDP, as well as to the achievement of other national goals of food security, poverty reduction and rural development. The recognition of the importance of the agriculture is evident in the selection of this sector as one of the priority sector under NDP 4 and in the National Industrial Policy.

Ladies and gentlemen

3. For farmers to reach their full potential and produce at the highest levels in terms of output and product quality, they need to be empowered through the provision of agricultural production and management services such as agricultural extension services, agronomy services and grain management as well as agricultural implements and machinery. Kaap Agri provides such agro-products and services, and has opened this branch in Rehoboth in order to provide such services to the farming community of and around Rehoboth. This is commendable.

Director of ceremonies, Ladies and gentlemen

4. We are here to bear witness the continued commitment and confidence that Kaap Agri has in the Namibian economy. Kaap Agri now has 16 branches located in the various parts of our country, which employ a total of 182 Namibians of which 23 are working at the Rehoboth branch.

5. The services that Kaap Agri provides are required by farmers in all parts of our country. As such, it is my sincere hope that Kaap Agri Namibia will grow and expand its operations to all 13 regions.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

6. The realization of national goals of food security and the development of key sectors such as agriculture sector requires joint action by the Government, at Central, Regional and local authority levels, and the private sector. So the partnership of organisations in the private sector such as Kaap Agri in providing agricultural extension and management services is most welcomed and complements the efforts of the Government aimed at boosting and expanding agricultural production. I am equally delighted to see the Hon Governor of the Hardap Region and the Mayor of Rehoboth, which is a sign of their support to this and other investments being made in Rehoboth and the Region in general.
7. This unity of purpose and public – private partnership is indeed central to our Strategy of *Growth at Home*. We recognize that in

order for us to grow our economy and create the required number of jobs, we need to expand the production capacity of sectors such as agriculture as well as to diversify our economic activities and the products that we produce. It is particularly critical that we produce enough food to feed our nation and to add value to our agricultural produce so that we can also export them as high value products and with a longer shelf life. Value chains provide more opportunities for employment and industrial activities.

8. The Namibian Government recognizes the private sector as an indispensable partner and has put in place a legal and policy framework that fosters a conducive environment for private investment. In addition, value addition activities qualify for incentives. The focus of Government's support is to largely to create an enabling environment and to crowd in rather than crowd out private sector initiatives.
9. I am reliably informed that Kaap Agri operates 14 silo complexes and four (4) processing plants in the Western Cape that process small grain seeds and dried beans. I look forward and hereby urge

Kaap Agri to seriously consider establishing such agro-processing operations in Namibia. The Ministries of Trade & Industry and Agriculture, Water & Forestry will be happy to provide any assistance that may be required to enable the company to establish agro-processing plants here in Namibia. We will be unhappy to see fresh produce or raw materials being exported from Namibia for processing in other countries when such value addition can easily be done right here.

10. The town of Rehoboth is strategic located and has great economic potential, and Kaap Agri has therefore not made a mistake by choosing to open a branch here.

11. The community of Rehoboth has shown resilience and prospects, and there are signs of a number of investments being made in the town over the years. I wish to announce that as part of its SME development programme, the Ministry of Trade and Industry constructs affordable business premises that are specifically met for small and start-up businesses. I know that Rehoboth is home to this type of businesses and a pool of promising entrepreneurs, who

need help from the Government and private sector partners such as Kaap Agri in order to unleash and realize their business potential.

12. It gives me great pleasure to inform the local authority and community of Rehoboth that my Ministry plans to construct an SME business park at this town during the 2014/2015 financial year. We believe this development will help to further ignite business activities in this promising town. In this connection, I wish to already appeal to the Town Council to be ready for us when we come knocking at their doors to provide land on which we can construct our planned business park.

Ladies and gentlemen

13. In conclusion, I wish to thank Mr Walsh and Kaap Agri for the investment made in this branch at Rehoboth. It is now my distinct honour to officially declare the Rehoboth Agrimark and Expressmark Branch officially opened.

I thank you