



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

WELCOME REMARKS

BY

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DEVELOPMENT**

**SOUTHERN AFRICA CUSTOMS UNION ROAD SHOW
SAFARI HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE**

12 MARCH 2018

**Director of Ceremony,
Honourable Ministers, present here today
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Permanent Secretaries/ Accounting Officers,
Distinguished Captains of Industries,
Distinguished Invited Guests
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning to you all!!

It is my distinct honour and privilege to welcome you all at the first ever Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) road show, held within the borders of Namibia - Land of the Brave, under the theme: “CONNECTING THE CUSTOMS UNION WITH ITS STAKEHOLDERS”.

This event has created a platform for all of us here today, to raise awareness and stimulate understanding of SACU (the first Customs Union in the world formed in 1910), its Institutions and operations and thereby enhance SACU’s brand visibility. This road show will offer an opportunity to establish dialogue and interactions among the key stakeholders such as both the private & public sectors and academia to inspire relevant communities

with knowledge in the area of international trade, focusing no comprehending the benefits of SACU as well as issues affecting cross border trade within the Customs Union.

**Director of Ceremony,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

One of the key objectives of the Southern African Customs Union is to facilitate the cross-border movement of goods between the territories of its Member States which are the Republic of Botswana, the Kingdoms of Lesotho and Swaziland, the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of South Africa, to ensure that all trade facilitation bottlenecks that affect the movement of goods and services are entirely eliminated, thus, causing ALL involved Members States to be satisfied.

In pursuant to supplement the objectives of SACU, the Government of the Republic of Namibia ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, with the purpose to ease border procedures and to facilitate the movement, release and clearance of goods.

**Director of Ceremony,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Its worth noting that, the Harambee prosperity Plan chapter on International Relations and Cooperation focuses on regional integration and removal of trade barriers to ensure free movement of goods & services and export market diversification. In addition, its Namibia's aspiration to be the logistics hub in Southern Africa becoming the gateway for the landlocked countries. Logistics is part of the 'Growth at Home' strategy, hence, trade facilitation is very important for Namibia.

**Director of Ceremony,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In conclusion, I hope that our deliberations at this gathering will enable us to identify the real challenges experienced by the traders and recommend practical solutions to eradicate these challenges as we appreciate the benefits derived from Trade Agreements signed by SACU.

With these few remarks, allow me to once again thank you all for having responded positively to our invitation and I believe without

doubt, that this assembly will meet your expectations and will indeed be a resounding success.

I wish everyone a rewarding and fruitful deliberations, and for our guests from over the borders of Namibia, to have a very pleasant stay in Namibia.

I thank you