



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU, MP

MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

**ON THE OCCASION OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON
NAMIBIA INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND FACILITATION BILL,
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND LIQUOR LICENCING AND
RELATED MATTERS
AT**

Wednesday, 08 FEBRUARY 2023

HOTEL RUNDU, RUNDU, KAVANGO EAST REGION

Director of Ceremony

Hon. Bonifatius Wakudumo, Governor of Kavango East Region

Hon. Sirkka Ausiku, Governor of Kavango West Region

Mr. Gabriel Kanyanga – Your Worship Mayor of Rundu Town Council

Mr. Jafet Muti – Your Worship Mayor of Nkurenkuru Town Council

Kavango East Acting Regional Police Commander – Commissioner Bonifasius Kanyetu

Kavango West Regional Police Commander – Commissioner Julia Sakuwa

Chairperson of the Kavango East Regional Liquor Licensing Committee

All Senior Government Officials

Members of the Business Community;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning

Ladies and Gentlemen;

1. It is an honor for me to be here today, at this stakeholder's engagement, to create awareness, share and deliberate on issues of mutual business, investment and entrepreneurial interests on the Namibia Investment Promotion and Facilitation Bill (NIPFB), Consumer Protection Policy as well as the administration of our National law, the Liquor Act, 1998 (Act No. 6 of 1998).
2. The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade is undertaking this noble initiative across the country, which is aimed at educating and consulting our valued stakeholders and general public on aspects related to NIPFB, Consumer Protection Policy and developing a common understanding to the administration of the Liquor Act.
3. Let me use this opportunity to thank you all for honouring our invitation to this consultative engagements. This is a crucial platform to critically engage us on these three key items and provide inputs which may allow us to finalise these important processes to ease unlocking and attracting investments, improve the administration of the liquor act across the country and promoting trade and investment opportunities for our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. I believe most of us are aware of the events that witnessed the developments around the NIPFB, inclusive of the tabling and withdrawal in Parliament by our Office. The Ministry undertook a process to address all concerns raised. A Technical Committee comprising of Senior Officials from key public institutions was constituted to consider the concerns raised on the Bill, and thereafter, present appropriate amendments and recommendations to Cabinet Committee for endorsement.
5. The Technical Committee deliberated on the areas that led to the withdrawal of the Bill and details on this process will be outlined by the officials during the presentations. The draft Bill is therefore cleared for public consultations and final engagements with key stakeholders, whilst ensuring that we initiate proceedings to re - table the Bill in Parliament.
6. The work on this Bill is underpinned on our pursuit for strategic investment priorities in Namibia. The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade further is therefore committed to shore up and revive our Investment regulatory and policy regime to embrace a modern and transparent legal framework that accommodates new economic dynamics and developments to ensure that Namibia leverage on dimensions that covers new economic and investment priority areas. There is a need to ensure that Namibia is not left with a policy gap when it comes to the investment environment to avoid investors' uncertainty.
7. The new investment policy regime will therefore enhance a conducive business environment in Namibia to fully leverage on new investment strategies pertaining to renewable energies, resuscitate a post Covid - 19 economy within an updated investment legislative and policy framework comprehensively. This will enable a viable institutional framework to support policy ambitions whilst fostering the required investor friendly infrastructure.
8. Namibia's Policy and Legal Framework for Investment confine itself within the presiding global policy space whilst ensuring adherence to the national agenda embedded in various policies and development frameworks. Further, the development of the NIPFB through a consultative process is aimed to ensure that it is fit for purpose for our national developmental trajectory. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that it is aligned to our national objectives of stimulating industrialisation, structural transformation of the

economy, total factor productivity and the attraction of both sustainable FDI and Domestic Direct Investment (DDI).

9. Furthermore the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade administers the Liquor Act 1998, (Act No. 6 of 1998) that makes provision for the licensing of all establishments in the supply and sale of liquors in our country. The Ministry fulfils this mammoth task together with its key strategic partner, which is the Office of the Judiciary that provides both the Chairmanship and Secretariat services to all Liquor Licensing Committees in all the Regions.
10. The Ministry further launched the National Consumer Protection Policy 2020 – 2025 in September 2021 the main objectives of the Policy is to seek an effective Consumer Protection Framework and develop the knowledge and skills necessary for Consumers to understand their rights associated with their spending and investment choices as well as to encourage fair trade in order to ensure a competitive economy.
11. In the same vein, the Policy has highlighted the need for legislation to address unfair commercial practices affecting businesses and consumers, including marketing tactics, advertising campaigns, sales promotions and other commercial practices directed at influencing consumer decisions in the marketplace. The Government considers that the effective protection of consumer rights is a vital component and therefore ranks high on the agenda of the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade.
12. To achieve this, the Ministry has dedicated its Division of Consumer Protection and Internal Market Regulation to serve as a National Consumer Protection Office. This Office is charged to liaise with other sector-regulatory bodies and institutions as well as to attend to all complains of consumers and secure an even playing ground for all businesses to educate consumers about their rights and the available mechanisms to redress their complains while the legal framework is being finalized.

Director of proceedings,

13. Allow me at this juncture to emphasise how important it is to participate in the continuous stakeholder's engagement which will provide us with in-depth understanding in order to effectively address and provide extension assistance to entrepreneurs when faced with challenges in the administration of the Liquor Act and ensure that information reaches all

relevant stakeholders and Consumers for the proper implementation of the Policy.

14. I therefore urge you all present here today to make use of this platform to seek all relevant information required, and to propose tangible solutions that can improve the industry for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders.
15. I wish you all fruitful engagements and I thank you for your kind attention!