



Republic of Namibia

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

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MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

**ON THE OCCASSION OF THE DECARBONISING NAMIBIA
CONFERENCE**

TUESDAY, 14 MARCH 2023

WINDHOEK

Director of Ceremonies

Mr. Parastus Nepolo, President of the Heating Ventilation AirConditioning Association Namibia and vice president of the SADC RAC association;

Mr. Cain Manyukwa, President of the SADC Refrigeration and AirConditioning Association and chairperson of the HEVACRAZ Association in Zimbabwe;

Mr. Mopampito Maseko, President of the RAC of Botswana ;

Mr. Sello Elliot Motabele, President of the RAC Association of Lesotho;

Mr. Hennie Basson, Secretary General of SADC RAC Association from South Africa;

Distiguished invited Guests

Representatives from various OMAs

Members of the media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

A very good afternoon.

It gives me great pleasure to join you today at this conference on the decarbonisation of the Refrigeration and AirConditioning sector. The structure of this platform is part of our Government mandate that encourages Namibians to oversee the development and management of Namibia's economic regulatory regime and ensure a strategy that enhances a green and clean industry.

Our "Growth at Home" theme reinforces the importance of accelerating economic growth, reducing income inequality and increasing employment. The Ministry's programmes are geared at removing supply side constraints, increase productive capacity, and increase the competitiveness of the Namibian industry in the domestic, regional and international markets.

In lieu of the above, the conferencing of this decarbonisation event initiates the discovery of innovative strategies to propel the country from the devastating impacts of climate change caused by technologies that are high in Global Warming Potential.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Climate change is altering climatic conditions globally as a result influencing production and the way of living. Thus, Governments around the World including Namibia are committed to binding targets, with the goal of limiting global warming to 2°C.

Achieving this goal is heavily dependent on individual nations together with their private sector players to act and work together to reduce their emissions and replace hydrocarbons with renewable power sources and climate-friendly equipment. This further encourages sectoral innovation to replace carbon-emitting equipment and production models as part of the *just transition* to decarbonizing economies to ensure sustainability and future production.

Director of Ceremonies

One will argue that Namibia is not a big polluter, not even close, but the commitments we have made are not for show because we are one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. This requires making necessary adjustments to the way we produce our goods and services to minimize our carbon footprint further and any other Green House Gasses.

The emissions from the RAC sector, and particularly the Hydrofluorocarbons emissions, that are preliminary addressed under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, to which Namibia is a signatory.

As a country, we initiated the National Policy on Climate Change in 2011 to translate the government's will and commitment to tackle global warming. Furthermore, we have recognized that achieving our targets and commitments requires sectoral approaches, thus the country has also drafted its National Cooling Strategy. The Strategy is finalised and it will be submitted to parliament soon for endorsement. The Cooling Strategy highlights the practical solutions and interventions to decarbonise the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning sector.

The cooling sector are deemed as some of the major contributors to global warming both directly and indirectly. With the demand for cooling expected to grow with population and raising temperature, there is an urgent need to cut cooling - related and energy wasting hydrofluorocarbon technologies.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Namibia's commitment through our Strategy emphasises the following to be accomplished in partnership with the private sector and other stakeholders:

- Licensing and quota system for Hydrochlorofluorocarbons since 1 January 2015 and Hydrofluorocarbons as of 1 January 2025;
- Training of customs officers on identification and control of import of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and ODS-based equipment. This has been done with NamRa;

- Technician training on good service practices, use of hydrocarbon refrigerants (as an alternative technology), and certification. This is the crucial component, as we phase out certain equipment, gasses, retraining, and certification need to be enhanced. In our National Cooling Strategy, we vowed to establish a working formalized training and certification scheme for RAC technicians. Moreover, conformity of process, product, or service with required good practices and standards can be enforced with certification, regulation, and market incentives. This is because we need companies, as well as technicians, to conform to good practices and standards. I am glad the HVAC team and experts have highlighted their commitment to this and the Ozone Unit can work together;
- MIT and MEFT are also committed to awareness creation activities including regular coordination meetings with stakeholders to craft an enabling environment for the outlined decarbonizing interventions.

The above measures will result in a reduction of direct emissions, associated with the refrigerant gases used by refrigerators and air conditioning devices during their operational lifetime.

Regarding the disposal, and the implementation of the programme to ensure environmentally safe handling of devices at their end – of - life, our today presentations have shown us the way forward. In our Cooling Strategy, we did not have an alternative backup but the world has evolved and solutions are now available.

Let me emphasise that a successful implementation of any measures requires ownership within the respective sectors working in collaboration with the ministries and other regulators. Thus, I am glad to see HVAC stepping up and working with various ministries and other stakeholders as a responsible sectoral representative for the implementation and enforcement of agreed measures. With such collaboration, decarbonising to energy - efficient and climate - friendly technologies and gasses is possible.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Lastly, we have seen some corporates investing in green buildings by utilising high - performance building designs that reduce the heat transfer from the outside through the building envelope to the inside of the building. Thereby reducing the need for an A/C system. Moreover, increasing the energy efficiency of lighting and other appliances that give off heat has the compound benefit of reducing cooling demand as well as direct energy consumption.

The Kigali Amendment sets a timeline for Parties to freeze HFC consumption in 2024 and to commence the step - down phases to progressively reduce HFCs by 2029. This means that there is a significant window of opportunity for reducing HFC emissions before 2029 and Namibia intends to exploit this mitigation potential until 2030.

I Thank you