

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



KEYNOTE REMARKS

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
LAUNCH OF THE IMPORT, EXPORT ONLINE SYSTEM (IMEX)

BY

HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU, MP
MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

6TH FLOOR, BOARDROOM, MIT

10H00, 24 MARCH 2021,

**HON. VERNA SINIMBO – DEPUTY MINISTER
MR. SIKONGO HAIHAMBO - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY,
MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

1. It gives me great pleasure and a sense of collective joy as we witness this momentous occasion marking the realisation of the Import, Export (IMEX) Online System.
2. This is a vital milestone in the government's efforts to ensure efficient quality services to economic operators, and I believe that it is a distinct reflection of the growing prominence of trade facilitation as a key component within the trade policy spectrum.
3. Allow me to express my deepest appreciation (firstly) to the SADC Trade Related Facility funded by the European Union (EU), within the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) for providing financial support towards the realisation of the system that I am launching today. I also wish to express a word of gratitude to the MIT team for the dedication and hard work on the delivery of this system as well as the System Developer S4 Trading for their generous commitment and all other O/M/A/S whom in one way or the other played a pivotal role in ensuring that the aspirations of this crucial investment becomes a reality.

DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES,

4. Online tools have become major instruments for simplifying and automating trade procedures, which are similarly important tools for supporting paperless trade and enhancing regional and global integration, Hence, I am very delighted to continue to champion these kinds of initiatives for e-service delivery. The importance of online tools are becoming increasingly pivotal in the world that we are living in today and therefore cannot be overemphasised.
5. The IMEX system, which we are about to launch today, will from now on enable traders to submit online permit applications and the issuance thereof, at one single point as opposed to the usual

manual application that traders have been subjected to and has been in operation for many years. Therefore, this initiative is indeed a great moment that deserves a round of applause.

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMENS,

6. Through this portal, our economic operators will benefit from a simplified, transparent, standardised and a harmonised system, which according to WTO are key Trade Facilitation approaches worth emulating to which Namibia is no exception. Moreover, it allows for efficient and effective services, creating an enabling environment for ease of trading with a potential impact of improved competitiveness of doing business trading across the border.
7. Similarly, it has the potential to reduce processing time, errors, costs, duplication of efforts, as well as the flexibility of economic operators to access the system online from anywhere and anytime.
8. In the same vein, this tool will enhance the benefits to be reaped from the recently signed AFCTA and many other trade agreements ascribed by Namibia by enhancing trade facilitation
9. As we are all aware, the World and Namibia in particular has been hard hit by the COVID 19 pandemic and it has devastating effects on our economy which requires all of us to do away with doing business as usual and direct our limited resources where it matters most. Hence, this initiative comes at the right time when, as it befits the COVID 19 protocols, as human interaction is reduced and facilitating the issuance of permits instantly.

DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES,

10. As we march on, my staff will continue engaging with key O/M/A/s to see how best we can collaborate on extending the system to other offices who provide similar services. In addition, sensitisation campaigns targeted at our key end users will continue to be rolled out and I therefore, urge everyone to collaborate with us and render your full support.

11. To the economic operators, I urge all of us to make meaningful use of the system to ensure that the money invested by our Government is optimally utilised, additionally, besides the benefits associated with the system, it will also allow us to identify the deficits in the system to enable us to rectify them timely and perfect the platform as the needs evolve. Furthermore, future consideration for a service fee maybe advanced, to cater for the maintenance and sustainability of the system.

12. While operationalising this platform is a milestone, the Government reform agenda is not yet complete and as such we will continue with our reforms to remove all the bottlenecks to ease doing business for operators and ensure that every other services we provide is of the highest standard thus aiding in making Namibia a better place, for us and for our children.

13. With this few remarks, I declare the IMEX system officially, launched.

Thank you for your kind attention.