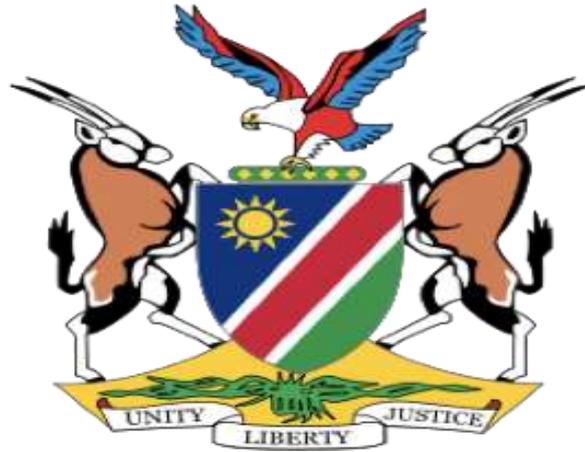


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



KEYNOTE REMARKS

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
INAUGURATION OF THE CORE GROUP FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED NATIONAL QUALITY POLICY
2020 - 2025

BY

HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU, MP
MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

NIPAM

10H00, 21 OCTOBER 2021,

Ms. Patricia Liswaniso – Acting DED and Director of Proceeding

Mr. Sikongo Haihambo – Executive Director

Ms. Chie Wasserfall _ Chief Executive Officer: NSI

All Deputy Executive Directors Present

Core Group Representatives

MIT Officials present

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. It gives me great pleasure and a sense of collective joy to see you all present here today as we witness this important occasion for inauguration of the Core Group that will spearhead the implementation of our Revised National Quality Policy for 2020 to 2025.
2. The presence of different Offices, Ministries and Agencies representatives is indeed a notable positive response to our Ministry's call to institutions with Technical Regulations to nominate Senior Officials to take up this mammoth task of leading the actualisation of our Revised National Quality Policy. MIT launched the Revised National Quality Policy on the 23 April this year and its implementation is long overdue since it was supposed to be effected three (3) months after the launch however; due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, we were unable to host this event and start with the Policy implementation as envisaged.
3. The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade as a lead institution has been given an oversight responsibility for the implementation of the National Quality Policy. Thus under this Policy, MIT is tasked to ensure that products traded and manufactured by local enterprises are in compliance with the set standards under the "Growth at Home" strategy and that all imports, should be subjected to quality compliance tests in order to reduce sub-standard products entering the Namibian market.

4. In order to implement the Revised National Quality Policy, the Policy made provisions for the establishment of an Inter - Ministerial Core Group representing Ministries involved in technical regulation. Whereas the main National Quality Infrastructure organisations will be represented and the Development Partners will be invited as observers. The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade is designated to Chair the Core Group.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. Allow me to share with this gathering today that, the Core Group is established with the objective of leading the institutional and legal modernisation of the National Quality Infrastructure so that the concerned bodies provide competent and essential support and services to industries, the Government of Namibia and all other stakeholders in line with the international best practices and norms. The Core Group is expected to monitor and oversee the implementation plans on a regular basis until the successful implementation of the Policy and is further required to develop a progress report every six (6) months through my office to Cabinet.

6. Notably, the detailed responsibilities of the Core Group are outlined in the Terms of Reference, however, allow me to highlight some of the key responsibilities of the Core Group which are:

a. To facilitate the coordination with regard to technical regulation development and implementation among the Offices, Ministries and Agencies and National Quality Infrastructure;

b. To review and align current institutions to the National Quality Policy in order to ensure that the quality infrastructure environment is conducive for delivering the services required in support of Vision 2030 and the associated Namibia Industrial Development Policy, National Development Plans and Harambee Prosperity Plan II.

c. To ensure that there are no oversights, overlaps, duplication and conflict of interest amongst the various institutions that constitutes the

National Quality Infrastructure and the regulatory agencies in Namibia.

d. To develop a detailed Implementation Plan and National Standardisation Strategy within three (3) months after its establishment that will be followed by all relevant stakeholders, especially the Offices, Ministries and Agencies in implementing the National Quality Policy.

7. The Core Group will be served at High - level representation and expected to set up a Task Team consisting of technical officials drawn from Offices, Ministries and Agencies represented in the Core Group.

Director of Ceremonies

8. Allow me to acknowledge that during the 31 years of independence, our Country has achieved remarkable results with the implementation of our first National Quality Policy of 1999. Among these notable achievements are:

- the promulgation of the Standards Act 2005 and
- the establishment of the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) in 2008 as a national standards body which is responsible for developing and publishing national standards, its role as a custodian of the national measurement standards and supplier of conformity assessment serves

9. However, since the implementation of our first National Quality Policy of 1999, there have been fundamental and dynamic changes in the business environment both at local and international levels and, these changes required consideration at Policy level. Hence these changes led to the birth of the revised National Quality Policy of 2020 to 2025 that calls for the establishment of the Core Group to lead the Policy implementation. Therefore, the revised National Quality Policy for 2020 - 2025 is laid on a strong foundation of successes of the previous policy.

10. The main objective of the revised Quality Policy is to improve the business environment and the quality of product and service, and in doing so, increase both domestic and foreign investor's confidence. Businesses today, either public or private institution on the international market requires goods and services to be of high quality and meet recognised standards. With the implementation of our revised National Quality Policy, we have confidence and believe that we will see more Namibian products and services meeting international standards and traded in the domestic and international markets. The Core Group is therefore entrusted to ensure that the policy objective is achieved,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. The establishment of the High-level inter-ministerial Core Group will assist the Government of the Republic of Namibia to achieve its vision of being an industrialised nation as encapsulated in Namibia's Vision 2030. The Core Group's mandate is highlighted in the Policy however, the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade as the lead institution has further breakdown this mandate into specific responsibilities in the Core Group's terms of reference; while the high - level Implementation Plan as annexed to the National Quality Policy will serve as a guide to enable the Core Group to effectively and efficiently execute its national tasks.

12. At this juncture, allow me to share with you that Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade is at an advance stage of securing aid from its Development Partners to the amount of approximately N\$27million to assist with the implementation of the Revised Quality Policy. This aid is also aimed to support the NSI and key Ministries dealing with technical regulations in consolidating their related infrastructure to conform to international requirements.

18. With these few remarks, I now declare the Core Group for the implementation of the National Quality Policy officially inaugurated and to start executing its entrusted national duties!

Thank you!