



**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE  
VERNA SINIMBO, DEPUTY MINISTER  
OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND  
TRADE, AT THE OCCASION OF THE DUBAI EXPO  
2021 TEAM TWO SENT-OFF**

**22 SEPTEMBER 2021,**

**BRB Building, NIPDB Offices**

- ✓ Madam Tanya Daringo, the Director of Ceremonies
- ✓ Executives of Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board, Namely:
  - Madam Margareth Gustavo, Strategy and Branding Executive
  - Mr. Richwell Lukonga, Chief Operations Officer
- ✓ Madam Anna Vambe, Project Manager for GIZ Startup Namibia
- ✓ Distinguished selected Namibian Start-ups sponsored to participate in Expo 2020 Dubai
- ✓ My best friends from the media present,
- ✓ All protocols observed,

Good Afternoon,

It is with great pleasure that I stand here once again to mark and express good wishes to our second departing team consisting of six reputable and distinguished Namibian Start-ups sponsored to participate in Expo 2020 Dubai, slated to prevail between October 2021 and March 2022.

Correspondingly, what an excellent exposure it is for the inclusion of four eligible graduates who have been selected through a transparent and fair process, so that they may go serve as Sales Consultants at the Namibian Pavilion and Kiosk in Dubai, our young ambassadors. You are commissioned to go and represent Namibia outstandingly, with pride and honor.

Hastily I pause, my ponder and your wonder is, how has this been realized, where did the resources come from, who is the blessing?

Let me put it this way.

Is it not marvelous to have partners, not just partners but rather development partners of substance?

Wonder no more.

With gratitude, your guess is as good as mine, it is once more the GIZ. Under the Start-Up Namibia Programme, GIZ sponsored close to two Million Namibian Dollars towards the expo, thus reducing the related costs and enabling Namibia's participation in the Expo.

At this point, I pause again and look at you while expecting... yes, go ahead ladies and gentlemen doing what we do best, please join me in felicitating GIZ with a resounding hands of applause.

Omake!

Thank you all!

Thank you GIZ.

I am sure, with the applause garnered from this audience, Madam Anna Vambe will be retrieving GIZ's cheque book and extend further countless blessings, we have just rubbed GIZ on the right side of the shoulder.

Just like on the first send-off occasion of Namibia's first team to Expo 2020 Dubai on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2021, today, I similarly stand here at the very same spot, filled with elevated joy, having to re-experience the first worthy send-off occasion.

Today's repeat episode need no more words.

Indeed, the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade, would like to wish all our ambassadors representing us at Expo 2020 Dubai, a successful and productive exposition and tenure.

Allow me at this juncture to point out that the continuous effort, commitment, resources and time invested in this preparation by the

Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board, GIZ and Namibia's stakeholders will never go unnoticed.

**Madam Margareth Gustavo,**

**Director of Ceremony,**

Congratulations to the startups and sales consultants on your successful selection to represent our country Namibia in the EXPO 2020 Dubai.

This is indeed an excellent opportunity which every entrepreneur would love to experience. Go sale your startups to the world, however, the biggest product is to promote Namibia as an investment destination of choice.

Surely, we will be watching you. We are commissioning you as Ambassadors, market Namibia to the world, connect Namibia to the globe, leave no good stone unturned and come back completely exhausted and having lost weight, then we will be convinced that you have performed outstandingly.

Take time to thoroughly educate yourselves before your departure about Namibia. Get the correct facts and statistics about Namibia, which is readily retrievable from the internet or from many other resources. Know Namibian's culture, economy, tourism, investment opportunities. Go evangelize about our democracy, excellent global rankings on many development and governance pillars, our democracy, judiciary independence, good governance, political and economic stability, our number one roads in Africa, our infrastructures, the ease of doing business in Namibia, et cetera. Go and be dynamic, lively and electrifying.

Go as informed ambassadors and don't hesitate to call up the right and resourceful people when you are not sure, never mislead anyone with false information. We know that you are going to make us proud and display teamwork second to nowhere in the world.

It is highly expected that leading companies with state of the art products and a wide range of modern business achievements will be represented at the Expo. Go learn from them, come back and innovate on their ideas in a big way. Come back and change the world. Use the EXPO 2020 Dubai to open opportunities for your businesses, expand on your already existing innovation and allow your startups to access the global competitive market.

Through you, Namibia can become a regional gateway and a game changer.

Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade bids you well. We desire your achievements to go down in history as National achievements. Namibia wants to see you added to the Mboma, Masilingi and many other's accolades of 2021. Go and create great international opportunities and economic emancipation for the development of Namibia's industries.

In this sense, we see our presentation at the Dubai Expo not just as an exhibition but also as specific proposal for joint venture with other countries. I am certain that in this sense, Namibia will fulfil its purpose to: present the various investment opportunities available in the country to potential investors from around the world.

In conclusion, I would like to extend another huge thank you, to GIZ and other stake holders for meeting the government half way in ensuring that the Namibian business community's participation in the Dubai Expo is realized.

Equally, I applaud and thank the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board for fulfilling government's mandate bestowed upon the Board.

I conclude my conversation with you Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends from the Media, by thanking you all and Bon Voyage to all our Dubai Expo participants.

God bless Namibia