



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT

BY

HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU, MP

MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 10TH ADAM GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS FORUM**

**TOPIC: STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC TIES - EXPANDING UAE-
NAMIBIA COLLABORATION WITHIN THE AFRICA - MIDDLE EAST
ALLIANCE**

WEDNESDAY, 30 OCTOBER 2024

VENUE: SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, DUBAI, UAE

Director of Proceedings

Professor Tahir Akhtar - Chairman of Adam Global

Dr. Kamran Shaikh - ADAM Global President :Europe

Ms. Juliet Zhou - ADAM Global President : Asia

Mr. Victoria Alonge - ADAM Global President :Africa

Sayyed Abbas Shah - ADAM Managing Partner

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning to your all,

It is an honour to address you today and I wish to offer fraternal greetings from H.E Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, President of the Republic of Namibia who could not join us at this crucial event due to other commitments.

In the same vein allow me to acknowledge and pay homage to our departed President, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob who has been a friend and an associate of ADAM Global since his time as the then Minister of Trade and Industry. His legacy and leadership has made significant contribution to the Republic of Namibia and the world at large.

Adam Global has remained a friend of Namibia and we recall the visit by a team of medical doctors in various disciplines who paid a courtesy visit to President Hage Geingob in 2023. It was during this visit that a commitment was made to assist Namibia's health sector. The medical and road safety professionals under the Adam Global Healthcare Network visited Namibia on a fact-finding and scoping mission with the aim to assess the critical needs of the sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathered here to explore new frontiers and avenues for cooperation in our shared journey toward sustainable development, prosperity, and mutual success. As nations in Africa and the Middle East, we stand as proud regions with unique cultural identities, rich histories, and abundant resources, and as we strengthen our alliance, we create opportunities for a vibrant economic future.

Namibia and the United Arab Emirates have long enjoyed a relationship founded on mutual respect and a shared vision for social wellbeing and economic growth. In recent years, we have seen an increase in trade, investment, and exchange in sectors that include energy, mining, agriculture, and tourism. Yet, there remains immense untapped potential to further this partnership.

The UAE, as a leading global hub, has demonstrated incredible foresight and innovation in fields that are critical for Namibia's own growth ambitions, including clean energy, digital transformation, infrastructure development and Agro - Processing. Namibia, with its strategic location in Southern Africa and its vast resources, can offer significant returns for UAE investors and partners in terms of large market access within the configuration of SADC and AfCFTA.

Namibia has vast solar and wind resources, and we are committed to becoming a net exporter of clean energy. We strongly believe that through partnerships with UAE government and UAE based companies, we can further advance our renewable energy agenda, which aligns with the global transition to a greener economy. Collaborating on technology, expertise, and investment in this sector can bring substantial returns and strengthen our positions as leaders in climate action.

In our quest for sustainable economic development, Namibia recognizes the transformative potential of digital solutions. The UAE has been a forerunner in creating smart cities, implementing digital government services, and fostering innovation ecosystems. We therefore wish to learn from this experience, to establish Namibia as a regional leader in technology and innovation. We can collectively forge collaboration and implement frameworks that support digital transformation and build a knowledge - based economy.

Both Namibia and the UAE offer unique landscapes and tourism experiences especially with unique desert landscapes. The two nations must therefore commit to enhancing connections between our people and promoting cultural exchange, we can enrich our tourism offerings and foster deeper mutual understanding.

Developing joint tourism initiatives and exploring investments in tourism infrastructure will not only benefit our economies but also strengthen ties between our citizens.

Food security remains a top priority for Namibia and the broader African continent. As a country, we are currently battling the challenge of drought due to sporadic rainfalls received. The UAE, with its expertise in modern agricultural practices and food import networks, can play a vital role in enhancing Namibia's agricultural productivity.

The Agricultural Sector remains key in enhancing trade between our two countries. Our small stock meat, beef, dates and charcoal production are some of our of niche export products with huge potential to infuse in the UAE market.

In this regard, the Namibia Islamic Halal Authority was certified by the Emirates International Accreditation Council in September 2024. This present a huge breakthrough for market access opportunities, strategic promotional initiatives,

key diplomatic and operational actions required to fully capitalise on the halal market potential

We must therefore continue to engage with intent to forge collaborations leveraging on smart partnerships, technology and sustainable farming techniques to ensure food security and create new opportunities for trade within the Africa - Middle East collaboration.

The Namibian governments has a responsibility to create a conducive policy and regulatory environments to attract and to facilitate private sector investment in projects that are aligned to government priorities in order to boost economic growth and to achieve inclusive sustainable development.

Namibia is currently at a crucial stage of enacting both our special economic zone and revised investment facilitation and promotion laws which provides key incentives for investments in Namibia. Coupled with these, our port facility, roads and rail network remains the best in the region for the ease of facilitation of trade and investments.

I therefore urge private sector players and investors in the UAE to consider Namibia as an ideal investment destination of choice. We need partnerships with you to help finance key investment projects and to bring innovation in international cooperation.

As Namibia and the UAE work toward shared economic goals, I am confident that we will set an example for a dynamic Africa - Middle East alliance. Through increased engagement, public - private partnerships, and a commitment to sustainable development, we will foster resilience and prosperity for both regions. Let this be the beginning of a new era in UAE-Namibia relations, where innovation, cooperation, and shared ambition drive our partnership.

I wish to thank the ADAM Global Business Summit Organiser and the United Arab Emirates government as well as all our partners in the Middle East and Africa for your commitment to a future that empowers our nations. Together, let us seize this opportunity to build an inclusive and prosperous alliance for the generations to come.

I thank you.