



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT

BY

HON. LUCIA IPUMBU, MP

MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

**AT THE OCCASION OF THE WORLD OZONE DAY
COMMEMORATION**

AT

ZOO PARK, CITY CENTRE (WINDHOEK)

MONDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2024

Director of Ceremony

Mr. Sikongo Haihambo, Executive Director (MIT)

Representative from UN – (Environment Programme)

All Senior Government Officials

Members of the Public;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning.

1. It is an honor to address you today at this very important occasion in our bid to create awareness on environmental sustainability under the theme **“Advancing Climate Action”**. Climate action is an important issue for our country and across the globe. The commemoration of the World Ozone Day serves as a reminder of our shared responsibility to protect our planet and future generations from the harmful effects of climate change.

2. Climate change is pressing reality and we continue to witness changing weather patterns, rising temperatures resulting in droughts, floods, and biodiversity loss. Namibia, like many other countries, is not immune to these trends. The environment, wildlife, and communities are all under threat.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Climate change threatens economic progress, livelihoods, and food security in Namibian sectors. We should act now to protect Namibia's economy to protect the ecosystems and natural resources on which we rely ensuring future generations' prosperity.

4. Namibia is a proud signatory to international climate agreements such as the Paris Agreement and the Montreal Protocol, which seek to phase out pollutants that destroy the ozone layer. We have made tremendous progress in achieving our environmental goals. Namibia is committed to investing in green energy to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and lessen carbon footprint.
5. This consolidates Namibia's ambition of becoming a Green Hydrogen hub. To this end, the National Cooling Strategy is being finalized following the finalization of the stakeholders consultations in April 2024.
6. Our industrial policy is another essential plan that has enabled Namibia to benchmark its policy Implementation framework against best regional and international practices. Industrial policy and strategy would ensure increased value addition and sustainable growth of our country. Increasing awareness through programs like today's event is critical to ensuring that every individual understands their part in climate action.
7. Our environmental protection journey is far from over hence Climate Action requires a collaborative effort from all sectors, including government, private industry, and civil society. Our choices today will affect the quality of living for future generations.
8. We will continue to lead by example, strengthening our environmental regulations, promoting green technologies, and supporting sustainable practices across industries. Businesses have a crucial role in promoting sustainable practices and investing in green innovations. Every citizen must understand that even small actions like reducing energy consumption, recycling, or planting trees will make a difference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Today, as we commemorate **World Ozone Day**, I challenge each one of us to reflect on how we can contribute to **Climate Action**. Let this day be a reminder that we have a duty not only to protect the ozone layer but also to promote environmental sustainability in every aspect of our lives. I urge businesses, industries, and communities to continue embracing eco-friendly practices and reducing their carbon footprint.

10. In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our implementing agencies (UNEP and GIZ), including the National Ozone Unit in the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade for organizing this event. I also thank the City of Windhoek and general public for their presence here today. Your involvement is a testament to the fact that Namibia is dedicated to being a leader in environmental protection.

11. Together, we can ensure that the ozone layer remains undamaged and that our planet remains a healthy, thriving home for generations to come.

Thank you