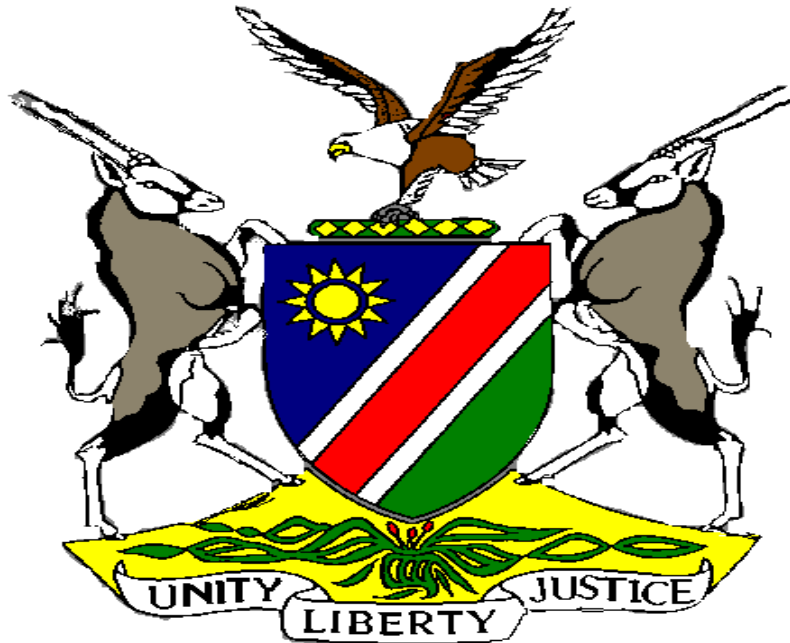


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



WELCOMING REMARKS

BY

SIKONGO HAIHAMBO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

AT THE VALIDATION WORKSHOP OF THE IMPORT AND EXPORT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

HELD ON 24 APRIL 2024

AT NIPAM, WINDHOEK

**DIRECTOR OF CEREMONY,
MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA,
DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS,**

Let me stand on the Protocols already established.

First and foremost, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the organiser of this event, the Integration International Management under the auspices of the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade as part of the EPA Implementation Support Programme.

Equally, I would also like to commend the European Union (EU), for their continuous support in the form of capacity building and funding projects as well as hosting this event today. The organiser, saw it befitting to bring the minds of various Stakeholders including the Border Management Agencies together with a view to discuss various spheres that will propel the Ministry's Standard Operating Procedures for the Import and Export controlled goods.

Furthermore, I am delighted to deliver an opening remark at this very critical milestone of our Ministry, as we converge here today, to validate the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Import and Export. The SOPs are intended to provide guidance to the players on how to go about when applying for their import, export, transit as well as rebate permits.

The absence of the guidelines documents makes it difficult to know the goods fall under the controlled products and the process to be undertaken when one wish to apply for permits. As we all may be aware, Agreement on Import Licensing

Procedures of the WTO makes provision for two types of permits, namely Automatic and non-automatic import licensing.

Automatic Import Licensing are the importation of goods into the country that our Ministry issue permits directly without clearance or supporting documents from other OMAs, while non automatic requires permits application made to the MIT to be accompanied by supporting or clearance from other OMAs.

Hence, it is pertinent that with your indulgence as valuable stakeholders be able to provide your inputs into these guidelines, so that it spells out step by step processes that our people have to follow when they intend to import, customs declarations, removal from bonds until acquittals.

In conclusion let us all implore to use this platform to iron out all grey areas on the document if any. by providing our inputs for the finalisation of the IMEX SOPs.

I hope and trust that after this event the draft document can pass the validation stage, for the official launch of the IMEX SOPs.

I wish you a fruitful engagement.