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# MIT Newsletter

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## VISION

A leading agent for economic structural transformation.

## MISSION

To create and sustain a conducive business environment through value addition, enterprise development, market access and investment promotion for the benefit of all.

## VALUES

Teamwork  
Transparent  
Innovative  
Professional  
Integrity  
Accountability

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade continues to play a vital role in ensuring that the needs of businesses and investors are met through a conducive economy. In doing so, the MIT's operational calendar for the First Quarter of the 2023/2024 Financial Year (FY) was bursting with activities.

The activities reflected in this Newsletter are a summary of some of the work performed by the custodians of the MIT – the management and staff.

The Corporate Communications Sub-Division within the MIT is mandated to ensure timely and up-to-date dissemination of information to both its external and internal clients.

To achieving this mandate, the Sub-division remains indebted to Offices, Directorates and Departments of this Ministry that have availed technical support and information, and the frequent liaising to ensure that the flow of information remained frequent.

We are therefore delighted to present to you the First Issue of the MIT Newsletter for Quarter One for the 2023/24 FY.

Enjoy the read...



**Elijah Mukubonda**

**Editor**

## NAM, SA MINISTERS DELIBERATE ON BILATERAL MATTERS



**Photo: Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Lucia lipumbu pictured with the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Hon. Ebrahim Patel during the bilateral engagement held in Pretoria.**

The Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Lucia lipumbu led a Ministerial delegation to Pretoria, South Africa (SA) in June 2023, where she engaged her counterpart, Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Hon. Ebrahim Patel to deliberate on critical bilateral matters of mutual benefit between the two countries.

The Ministerial bilateral engagements sought to consolidate key aspects related to collaboration in trade, investment, and industry. The bilateral meeting preceded the Namibia - South Africa Bi-National Commission and Business Forum which will take place in Namibia in July 2023.

Hon. lipumbu was accompanied by the Namibian High Commissioner to South Africa H.E Veiccoh Nghiwete and senior officials from MIT while Hon. Patel was joined by his deputy minister, Hon. Fikile Majola and other senior officials.

Speaking during the meeting, Hon. lipumbu narrated that the platform aims to solidify the relationship between the two countries. She implored on the need to focus on growing the investment landscape and collaborations in many aspects such as competition, franchising and trade in general.

The MIT Minister also noted that to further strengthen the bilateral cooperation on trade, Industry and investment matters, Namibia – South Africa must consider establishing Joint Investment and Industrial Development Mechanism to ease further deliberations on Industrialisation and Investment at a bilateral level, enhance and strengthen cooperation in various areas of trade and cultivate a common agenda on industrial development.

On his part, Hon. Patel noted that trade is very crucial between Namibia and South Africa but there is a need to look at modalities of leveraging on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a catalyst for improved trade. The South African Trade Minister recalled that through the Southern African Customs Union (SACU), concerted efforts were undertaken to enhance regional value chains development to scale sufficient products to infuse in the AfCFTA markets.

The meeting concluded that Namibia must identify key areas to foster investment for linkage with appropriate Investors in SA.



## UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR PAYS COURTESY VISIT TO MIT MINISTER



**Photos: Hon. Lucia lipumbu (centre) pictured with the UN Resident Coordinator to Namibia, Ms. Hopolang Phororo (second from right), Executive Director, Mr. Sikongo Haihambo (far right) and senior managers during the courtesy visit in Windhoek.**

The United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator in Namibia, Ms. Hopolang Phororo paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Lucia lipumbu in Windhoek in May 2023. The purpose of the visit was for Ms. Phororo to identify areas of work with the Ministry, in order to make UN activities more relevant to the Namibian Government.

Hon. lipumbu during the meeting stressed the importance of the relationship between the UN and Namibian Government and appreciated the role of the UN Resident Coordinator in synchronising its activities, when she welcomed Ms. Phororo.

She further urged the Resident Coordinator to ensure that there is an alignment between Government and its development partners.

On her part, Ms. Phororo indicated that Government alone could not address issues of health, early childhood development and youth unemployment which she would prioritise, and thus requires working together with development partners.

The UN Resident Coordinator in Namibia noted the Ministry's role in strengthening the entrepreneurial culture in Namibia, which would create jobs for the youth. She further requested that MIT channel its activities to her Office in order to ensure that interventions add value and become impactful.

Ms. Phororo previously served as the International Labour Organisation's director in the country office for Zimbabwe and Namibia amongst other roles in the UN system, before her current position.

# DEPUTY MINISTER ATTENDS COMMONWEALTH TRADE MINISTERS MEETING



**Photos: (Top):** Delegates pose for a group photo following the business deliberations.

**(Bottom)** Hon. Verna Sinimbo pictured during deliberations at the AfCFTA Business Forum in London.



The Deputy Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Verna Sinimbo attended the 2023 Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting at Marlborough House in London in June this year.

The 2023 meeting provided an opportunity for Ministers to take stock of developments in Commonwealth trade and investment and reflected on the opportunities for mutual cooperation to increase intra-commonwealth trade. It also provided guidance on the way forward ahead of the 2024 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Hon. Sinimbo made significant contributions at the Meeting chiefly on two agenda items namely; supporting the multilateral trading systems as well as inclusive and sustainable trade.

At the periphery of the Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting, Hon. Sinimbo also attended a lecture themed: “Leveraging digital and trade finance to accelerate the Africa Continental Free Trade under the AfCFTA”.



# ANNUAL PLAN REVIEW REFLECTS ON MIT PERFORMANCE DURING 2022/23 FY



Photos: MIT Senior management and staff members pictured at the sidelines of the annual plan workshop.

The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade held a two-day workshop to review its Annual Plan, Extension for the Strategic Plan and Annual Plan formulation in Windhoek.

The meeting held in April 2023 set the road map and way forward for the MIT, drawn from the national agenda and development programmes.

The meeting also Set strategic key performance indicators (KPIs) for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years in accordance with its vision, mission and mandate.

The workshop further identified projects and programmes to be undertaken during the period of the extension of the strategic plan and set targets from the KPIs for the execution of the strategic plan and align it to high level documents namely Vision 2023, national development plans, HPP II and the Growth at Home Strategy.

The Executive Director for MIT, Mr. Sikongo Haihambo underscored the need for the Ministry to perform its work that will impact to the livelihoods of Namibians, when he opened the two -day workshop.

## OVERALL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE

The MIT's overall annual performance stood at 55 percent, reflecting a significant decline as compared to the first, second and third quarters for the 2022/23 Financial Year.

Overall performance stood at 85 percent during the First Quarter; 73 percent during Q2; and 70 percent in Q3 during the period under review.

"We have to introspect - why are we sloping downward? We are the key economic Ministry and the current agenda is economic revival and we would want to reset ourselves towards a better economic performance that should be sustained in the long run. For us as a key ministry, we are busy letting Namibia down," the Executive Director said.

Lastly, the ED called for the Ministry's performance should have an impact on the livelihoods of Namibian people and to realise the Namibian agenda.



# SPOTLIGHT ON AFCFTA

## DEPUTY MINISTER ATTENDS AFCFTA BUSINESS FORUM

The Deputy Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Verna Sinimbo represented Namibia at the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Business Forum in Cape Town, South Africa in April this year.

The four-day event was hosted under the theme: “Accelerating Implementation of the AfCFTA”, and convened by the AfCFTA Secretariat in collaboration with the South African Government.

The assembly of dignitaries at the event sought to present a platform to enable the private sector to unlock trade and investment opportunities in priority areas namely Agriculture, Agro-processing, Pharmaceuticals, Automotive, Transport, Logistics as well as payment systems among others.

The forum brought together notable players on the African continent to accelerate and activate trade and investment activities under the umbrella of AfCFTA implementation.

The Business Forum provided an excellent opportunity to introduce businesses to the AfCFTA HUB, a unified electronic gateway connecting e-government portals, business and consumer apps, and supranational platforms into one continental digital ecosystem.

Among the key topics discussed, the conference explored challenges and opportunities pertaining to key sectors such as Pharmaceuticals, Automotive, Agribusiness, Transport and Logistics, and Digital Trade. In addition, operational tools such as the Pan African Payment and Settlement System, and other digital solutions developed to allow seamless flow of data, capital, and services were highlighted.



Photos: Delegates at the AfCFTA Business Forum in Cape Town, South Africa.

The Forum was also an opportunity to discuss with the private sector the opportunity of investment regulatory framework adopted under the AfCFTA which will facilitate key investments on the continent for increased intra-Africa trade.

At the conclusion of the Forum, the AfCFTA Secretariat introduced the new name for the forum moving forward – “Biashara Africa” – Trade Africa and announced that the next edition would be held on 24 - 25 May 2024 at a venue to be communicated well in advance.

Additional reporting: AfCFTA



# SPOTLIGHT ON AfCFTA



## NAMIBIA HOSTS SOUTHERN AFRICA YOUTH CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP ON AfCFTA PROTOCOL ON WOMEN AND YOUTH IN TRADE



The Namibian Government, through the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) and in collaboration with the Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service and the National Youth Council of Namibia, convened a two-day Southern Africa Youth Consultative Workshop on the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade, in June 2023 in Windhoek.

In partnership with the AfCFTA Continental Secretariat, Youth for Tax Justice Network Africa, and with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and European Union Delegation to Namibia, the Consultative Meeting brought together young people and women in business, Government officials, and youth leaders across the SADC region to, among others, galvanise action and mainstream youth voices towards a common voice on the AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade and foster a deeper awareness of challenges faced by young entrepreneurs, producers, and traders across the region.

The objective of the workshop was to further generate issues for Inclusion in the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade and e-Commerce as well as to enhance access to economic opportunities for the youth at national and regional levels through sustainability in youth priority sectors.

The workshop was officiated by the Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Lucia Ipumbu, and deliberated on matters relating to Value addition and innovation; Support mechanisms for formal and informal traders; Intellectual property and rights; Barriers to entry and effective participation; Discriminatory customs and practices; Capacity building; and Standards and Origin certification, to name a few.

In her statement, Hon. Ipumbu stated that Namibia as a state party to the AfCFTA Agreement and its offer within the SACU configuration has been adopted by the Council of Ministers, both in trade in goods as well as in trade in services.

Therefore, she said, Namibia is ready to champion initiatives that target women and youth participation in key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing logistics, and tourism.

The outcome and recommendations derived from the workshop will culminate into a Report containing strong policy and program recommendations that will inform the design of national policies and complementary measures to address and remove systematic barriers so that women and youth share in the gains of the AfCFTA Agreement.



# SPOTLIGHT ON AFCFTA

## MIT HOSTS CONSULTATIVE ENGAGEMENT ON AFCFTA DRAFT PROTOCOL ON DIGITAL TRADE



The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) hosted a two-day consultative engagement on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Draft Protocol on Digital Trade 2.0, which took into account Namibia's national objectives as encapsulated in domestic trading activities within other regional and international protocols.

The desired ambitions of the AfCFTA Draft Protocol on Digital Trade 2.0 is to establish transparent and harmonized rules as well as common principles and standards that enable and support digital trade. It also recognizes that not all countries are at the same level of development, thus there is a need to provide technical assistance and capacity building to State Parties in the implementation of the Protocol.

### **DIGITALIZED ECONOMY ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT**

In his welcoming remarks read by the Director for Commerce, Ms. Diina Nashidengo, the Executive Director for the MIT, Mr. Sikongo Haihambo indicated that digital trade has proven to

be an effective tool for inclusion, and also allows small businesses and those owned by women to reach consumers directly, without going through costly intermediaries.

Namibia's participation at AfCFTA negotiations, he said, will be of great importance to avoid a situation whereby the country loses out on opportunities to be part of a digitalized economy on the continent.

"Participation in digital trade offers significant economic benefits, including diversification of export markets and products and lowering the costs of trade in goods and services," Haihambo said.

The inputs derived from the meeting on the document which will conclude Namibia's position during the negotiation of the Protocol.

# MSMEs TRAINED IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT



The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) through the EMPRETEC Namibia partnered with the German Sparkassenstiftung for International Cooperation (DSIK) programme to deliver an entrepreneurial training intervention, aimed at strengthening the capacity of Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Namibia through the provision of business simulation training workshops.

The training workshops were officially kicked off in May 2023 to help entrepreneurs learn and manage their businesses successfully and focused mainly on financial management aspects such as business planning, forecasting, record keeping, budgeting, and financial statements to enable entrepreneurs to get the know-how of business financial management.

Minister of Industrialisation and Trade, Hon. Lucia Lipumbu officially launched the training workshops which commenced in the Khomas and Zambezi regions. Participants who were trained included registered and non-registered MSMEs to allow growth within the business world.

Additionally, the training would improve the livelihoods of MSMEs across the country in all 14 regions, reaching 1400 MSMEs (100 per region).



# YOUTH GRADUATE IN GEMSTONE POLISHING



**Photo:** Youthful graduate, Elizabeth Kalipus (L) receives her certificate from Hon. Lucia lipumbu (R) during the Gemstone graduation ceremony in Windhoek.

Growth at Home is the theme chosen by the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) to reinforce the importance of accelerating economic growth, reducing income inequality and increasing employment. MIT's programmes are geared at increasing productive capacity, and increasing the competitiveness of the Namibian industry in the domestic, regional and international markets.

Through the Growth at Home Initiative, the Ministry established the Gemstone Training Centre in Karibib, Erongo Region in 2019 to provide the Namibian youth with skills in cutting and polishing. It is through this project that the Ministry will develop industrial value-chain activities based on Namibian resources and raw materials.

The Centre has facilitated the placement of at least 95% trainees in to the diamond industries where they further their skills and at the same times earning as qualified employees.

A total of 142 youths from all 14 regions received training in the Gemstone Cutting and Polishing Programme, with 138 having successfully completed the programme since January 2021.

In May 2023, a cohort of 35 graduates received Certificates for successfully completing the gemstone cutting and polishing training programme for the periods 2021 and 2022.

The training is held for a period of six months whereby students are introduced to Gems and learn how to valueate, mark, slice, preform, calibrate, facet and polish and drill different types of gemstones.

With its abundant resources in precious and semi-precious stones, the country is poised to have a significant competitive advantage in the development of the gemstone-based processing and manufacturing industry.

Gemstone is the maturely occurring crystalline form of a mineral and is desirable for its rarity and durability, enough to be enjoyed for generations.

Based on the positive image, the excellent reputation of genuine Namibian gemstone products and the adoption of sustainable production practices, the industry will be able to supply a growing range of quality products to discerning local, regional and international buyers.

“Producing many graduates of this course is an important element of the war against poverty and a further step on Namibia’s path towards becoming a highly competitive and industrialised nation in Gemstone cutting and polishing with a sustainable economic growth plan as depicted in Vision 2030,” Hon. Lucia lipumbu said in her statement during the graduation ceremony.

# STAFF MOVEMENTS

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

**Mr. Christian Nuumbundu**  
Senior Administrative Officer  
Grade 10

**Ms. Hileni Uahengo**  
Senior Administrative Officer  
Grade 10

**Mr. Allen Katjinjaa**  
Administrative Officer  
Grade 12

**Ms. Shekupe Hefingo**  
Computer Technician  
Grade 11

**Mr. Fillemon Nuule**  
Chief Security Operations Officer  
Grade 6

**Mr. Oscar Nghihangwa**  
Chief Accountant  
Grade 6

## RESIGNATIONS

**Mr. Victor Zambwe**  
Control Administrative Officer  
Grade 6

**Ms. Bonifasia Siteketa**  
Personal Assistant  
Grade 6

## PROMOTION TO OTHER OMAs

**Ms. Heva Mouers**  
Promoted to Senior Administrative Officer  
Office of the Auditor General  
Grade 10

## PROMOTION WITHIN THE MIT

**Ms. Chuma Memory Mbeha**  
Transferred from Cleaner Grade 15  
to Administrative Officer Grade 12

# MIT WELLNESS COMMITTEE TRAINED ON WOSH AND EMPLOYEE WELLNESS



The new Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) Wellness Committee members received training through the Office of the Prime Minister on Workplace Occupational Safety and Health (WOSH) and Employee Wellness in Swakopmund in June 2023.

The 13-member Committee is appointed in accordance with the Public Service Act, 1995 (No. 13 of 1995), and section 46 of the Labour Act, 2007 (No 11 of 2007), which requires employers to create the wellness committee and programmes focusing on the improvement of the welfare of employees.

The MIT Wellness Committee is established to promote a culture of physical, social, psychological, financial, and emotional well-being for employees by providing activities and support that will result in a healthy and productive workforce.

As part of its training held in Swakopmund, Erongo Region, the Committee was capacitated in understanding employee wellness dimensions such as social, financial, mental and spiritual, physical, and emotional wellness in employees, as well as how to improve co-workers well-being.

The Committee is further expected to receive first aid training during the 2023/23 FY.

The Ministry's Wellness Committee will serve for the period of two years effective from 1 June 2023 until 30 June 2025.

## WELLNESS AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

The Wellness Committee will conduct a number of wellness activities during the 2023/24 Financial Year (FY), ranging from screening sessions to promote healthy lifestyles, social wellness events, wellness awareness activities, employee wellness awareness sessions.

Wellness awareness sessions will include topics ranging from how to cope with stress, mental health, financial literacy, family planning, drug and alcohol abuse, work-life balance, and more.

## PROMOTION OF HEALTHY LIFESTYLE HABITS

The Wellness Committee has implemented interventions to promote Healthy Lifestyle Habits at MIT. These are :

- **No Elevator Day**, aimed at increasing physical activity of employees at the workplace. Elevators will be switched off once a month to ensure that every staff member takes the stairs. Regional staff members are expected to park their vehicles at home and walk to work on No Elevator Day.
- **No Red Meat Day**, is aimed to promoting healthy eating and will be implemented every Monday.
- **Sneaker Day** every Friday to promote feet health.
- **Buy a Local Product Day** once a month, aimed at promoting awareness of locally produced goods and products. Staff member will share photos of their purchases on the MIT Staff Whatsapp Group.
- **Drink Water Only Day** which will be on Every Pay Day. As the excitement rises to meet those 'pre-pay-day' cravings, the Wellness Committee encourages staff members to buy and drink water instead of fizzy drinks and other cold or hot beverages, because Water is Life!

**The Healthy Lifestyle habits will be implemented as from 3 July 2023.**

NAME	POSITION/SUB-COMMITTEE
Ms. Selma Shivute	Chairperson
Ms. Lydia Mwangala	Deputy Chairperson
Ms. Amalia Nangolo	Secretary
Mr. Salomo Tenga	Head: Finance
Ms. Celeste Booysen	Member: Finance
Ms. Nalitye Nghede	Head: Mental & Spiritual Health
Mr. Oshike Shiimi	Member: Mental & Spiritual Health
Mr. Oliver Ferland	Head: Fitness Club
Ms. Trina Kachele	Head: Social Club
Ms. Anna Salkeus	Head: Communication
Mr. Uaisana Patoko	Head: Environmental Safety & Health
Ms. Maureen Rooi	Member: Environmental Safety & Health
Mr. Matheus Mukosho	Member: Regional Representative



# MIT IN PHOTOS



MIT's Minister, Hon. Lucia Lipumbu (second from left) and Deputy Minister, Hon. Verna Sinimbo pictured with a Chinese business delegation during a recent visit in Windhoek.



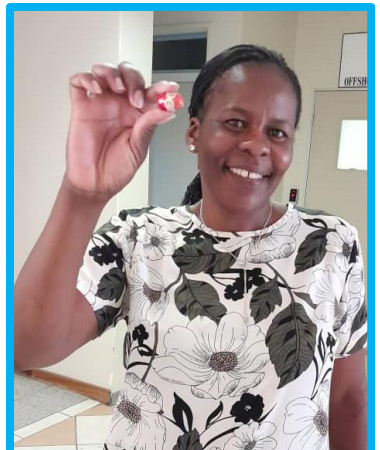
Staff members from the Commerce Sub-division attend the EU-Namibia Quality Infrastructure Forum hosted by the NSI in collaboration with the MIT in Windhoek.



MIT Staff follow the proceedings at the Gemstone Graduation ceremony in Windhoek.



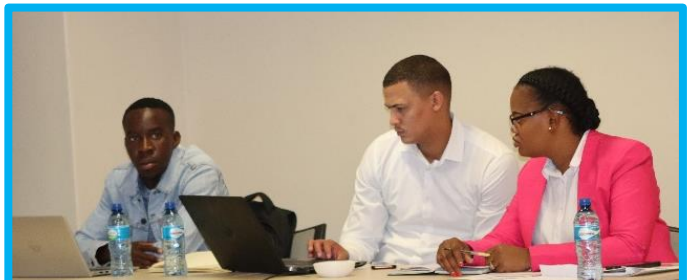
Personal Assistant to the Minister, Salom Katoole is always camera ready.



Lucky find....Floor technician, Charlencia Mbazuvara pictured during the Easter Egg Hunt at the MIT Head Office.



Winning spirit...Alfriede Marthin (R) won first prize while Martina Kaffer (L) won second prize in the MIT Easter Treasure Hunt in April. Both ladies received hampers with Easter treats in them.



Secretariat.... (L-R) Aruni Kanyimba, Oliver Ferland and Nalitye Nghede pictured at the Annual performance review workshop at NIPAM.

# Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade

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