



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT BY

HON. VERNA SINIMBO, MP

DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE TRADE FORWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA
TFSA EXPORT TRADE TRAINING GRADUATION**

THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2022

Director of Ceremonies,

H.E. Charles Moore: British High Commissioner to Namibia

Ms. Maria Immanuel :TFSA National Steering Committee Chairperson

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am greatly delighted to be with you here today to celebrate this important occasion of the Trade Forward Southern Africa (TFSA).training graduation. I am further grateful for the steady and consistent progress made by this training and would like at the onset to reiterate the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade's commitment to always support commendable initiatives such as this one.

Allow me therefore to appreciate the support provided by the United Kingdom's flagship regional trade programme in advancing the much-needed technical assistance and capacity building to address non-tariff related barriers to trade. It is commendable to note that the TFSA is one of the mechanisms through which the UK is enhancing partnership with both government and the private sector to promote a more inclusive economic environment. These efforts comes at an opportune time when we are all committed to build back better together after the devastation by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of geopolitical events. This will assist us to create jobs and drive a sustainable future for all.

I am informed that this training programme operates across the SACU region, a vital initiative that will enhance regional trade and integration. The technical assistance and capacity offered by this training is key in addressing non-tariff related barriers to trade which are facing mostly our women operated businesses who forms a huge part of the informal traders.

Today we are witnessing 63 Namibian women owned business owners graduating after enrolling and completing modules in the Export Assistance at the School of Export – TFSA. The Export Trade Training Graduation is therefore celebrating all of you for this milestone and we are imploring on you to ascend higher in your trade and export journeys. This ceremony is meant to celebrate all of you women in trade in an enjoyable setting that is both inspirational and informative of government's interventions to support women to trade internationally, be it to the UK, Africa and other markets.

The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade as the custodian of trade promotion will strive to implement its mandated by promoting economic growth and development through the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies with the view to increase trade, develop and expand the country's industrial base. It is in this regard that our graduates here today stand best suited to take advantage of many opportunities, which may arise from our various engagements with our trade partners through the various agreements which we are party to.

It is therefore gratifying to note that the curriculum for this training is designed targeting especially women entrepreneurs to equip them with critical skills and strategies to trade in a global market, increase the

capacity of their businesses, and become sustainable business owners. This initiative support the ambitions of the continental wide AfCFTA in ensuring that local businesses' possess the needed capacity to export and improve gender equality in trade to alleviate poverty and increase employment opportunities for women and youth.

Namibian women owned businesses enrolled and completed modules in the Export Assistance - School of Export – TFSA. The Export Trade Training Graduation is an occasion to celebrate your achievement and break the bias to trade. I am therefore encouraging you to soar higher in your export journeys. This graduation ceremony is a celebration of women in trade which is both inspirational and informative to government's interventions to support women to trade internationally, be it to the UK, Africa and other markets.

To our dear graduands, I congratulate all of you for this great achievement. I urge you to explore more opportunities that open the doors for you in the world of work. Ensure that you remain innovative, as this is the only way you will overcome the challenges ahead of you. Apply the knowledge and skills imparted in you equitably and prepare to be in the forefront to lead the struggle that will transform the lives of our people.

I thank you.