



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU, MINISTER OF
INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE ON THE OCCASION OF THE OSHANA
REGIONAL INVESTMENT CONFERENCE**

THURSDAY, 25 AUGUST 2022

LEO SHOOPALA HALL – OSHAKATI

Director of Ceremonies: Ms. Teopolina Hamutumua
Hon. Erastus Uutoni – Minister of Urban and Rural Development
Hon. Elia Kaulifewangali Irimari : Governor of Oshana Region
Hon. Gerson Kapenda: Chairperson – Oshana Regional Council
His Worship Rev. Taarah Shalyefu : Mayor of Ongwediva
Ms. Nangula Uaanjaa : Chief Executive Officer of NIPDB
Dr. Christopher Mberema: Director – UNAM – Ogongo Campus

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted for the opportunity to be here today to attend this prestigious event. This is our collective effort as a region and a nation by extension to look at the Oshana region as an investment pivot. This is an important discussion as investment development, incubation, attraction and promotion is seen as a critical pillar for overall economic growth, societal development and as a global imperative-the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Regional Investment development and incubation builds on these goals but further creates an avenue for ensuring balanced sustainable development as well as equity in regional development profiles of a country.

Ladies and Gentlemen

We are all aware of the triple challenges we are facing as a country: *poverty, inequality and unemployment*. National conversations as well as official statistics continues to highlight these plights and how far from urban centres the realities manifests themselves more. The Oshana region is thus an important player in these conversations and strategies around regional investment hubs as the region host the largest urban complex after Windhoek that is in the Khomas region. Along with the Windhoek economic hub, the Swakopmund-Walvisbay economic hubs, the

Ondangwa-Ongwediva-Oshakati economic hub are major economic growth points in our country. This reality is also reflected in our past work outcomes when it comes to the availment of some business support measures, the Oshana region, unlike many other regions in the country, proactively participated in such opportunities adequately such as business grants and other support measures.

Thus as an economic hub that is situated in nether regions of the country, the conversations around regional investment promotion and development are a portend of things to come when it comes to national strategies. Thus as much as we will converse on investment opportunities and potential thereof for the Oshana region, let us also ensure that we also provide ample opportunities for other locations especially rural areas investments and development. In that way we will appreciate, better our efforts to continue working towards eliminating the triple challenges that we face as a country.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Having treated the subject of regional investment within the national context, allow me now to discuss recent work of government and the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade in particular in driving the industrialisation agenda and thus the relevance to our agenda of today.

In essence as industrialisation policy drivers, we focus on ensuring industrial development encompassing enterprise development as well as market access. These ideals are espoused in the Growth at Home Agenda duly, which is the execution plan of our National Industrial Policy. The interventions on industrial development are both in policy as well as hard economic infrastructure. From a policy perspective, the Ministry is finalizing the introduction of a Special Economic Zones regime, which will allow for the development of cluster industries that can

help ameliorate the problem of scale economies especially in rural settings in our regions. Special economic zones will also help a major economic hub such as the Ondangwa-Ongwediva-Oshakati to consider opportunities such as fertilizer and animal-feed manufacturing to help shore up the agro-processing potential of the region. In terms of industrial and business development agenda the Ministry embarks upon constructing various industrial and MSME parks as well such as the:

- Industrial Stalls in Oshakati (Erf 1304, Erf 1306, Erf 1311 and Erf 1309)
- The Workshop in Oshakati (Erf 1307 a and b and Erf 1308)
- The Namibia Beverage Factory in Oshakati (Erf 1312)
- The Ondangwa Industrial Park (Erf 2347)
- The Ondangwa Automotive Centre (also located on Erf 2347)
- The Ondangwa Plastics Centre (also located on Erf 2347)
- The Ondangwa Automotive City (also located on Erf 2347)
- The Ongwediva Business Park on erf 6311
- The Northern Tannery Complex in Ondangwa
- And various developments such as houses and flats as well as Ministerial and NIDA representative offices.

Ladies and Gentlemen

These industrial development interventions provides ample opportunity in terms of developing a regional investment strategy as well as optimising on opportunities that may arise through the Special Economic Zones regimes and its attendant incentives.

In addition to industrial development interventions, market access and opening opportunities thereto remains a preoccupation of the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade. To this end the creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is a major market access opportunity along with the SADC and SACU trading areas of which we are part of. This provides ample opportunity to explore

and invest in regional investment opportunities that can unlock such markets for Namibia. To this end it is vital that scale economies be observed so that we work on ensuring bilateral and regional value chains. Much as we discuss these modes of value chains as African countries, it is also a good opportunity for regions such as Oshana to lead intra-country national and constituency bilateral, trilateral or such value chains.

For example given that commodity based trading is now allowing our Northern regions beef producers market access into countries such as Angola, Oshana, Kunene, the Kavango regions as well as Zambezi can develop a comprehensive beef value chain leveraging on existing MIT infrastructure. In Kunene and Oshana the animal herds are able to sustain throughput, whilst Oshana also have the Ondangwa Tannery to process leather, the Kavango regions also has processing facility as well as the Kavango Cattle Ranch of the MIT, whilst Zambezi is the a major processing hub. In addition, these regions can work along with neighbouring regions in Botswana or amongst themselves to manufacture Foot and Mouth Disease vaccine given the fact that Botswana is already doing so.

Similarly the quarantine facilities in the Kunene and Kavango regions can play a vital role in ensuring the development of these beef value chains markets and attendant manufacturing capabilities. It is thus my earnest hope that this conference will not only look inward exclusively into what Oshana can do but also help position Oshana as a leading region to help cultivate intra-national bilateral and regional value chains.

Sectoral growth strategies underpins the work of the Ministry in terms of the Growth at Home Strategy. A key such sector which is amenable for Oshana region is the Cosmetics and Associated Value Chains. This sector was launched along with 9 others such as Metal Fabrication in 2016 by the Ministry. I am aware of the vast

opportunities that this region can undertake such as Marula oil (and associated byproducts such as marula oilseed cake which can be a very good animal feed but which is hardly being produced), Ximenia and Devil's Claw. These cosmetics value chains are very vital for rural economic invigoration as well as supporting a mass number of informal economy agents especially women and youth. The Ministry shall continue working towards issues of market access as well as costly limitations such as certifications in an effort to make our producers competitive.

With these few words, I am honored to herewith join you here and wish all of us fruitful but sustainable deliberations!

I Thank You.