



## **REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**REMARKS BY HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU, MP  
MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION & TRADE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE INAUGURATION OF THE ANGOLA - NAMIBIA JOINT  
TRADE COMMITTEE (JTC)**

**SWAKOPMUND, ERONGO REGION**

**Wednesday, 27 APRIL 2022**

- **Director of Ceremonies,**
- **Your Excellency, Victor Francisco Dos Santos Fernandes, Minister of Industry and Commerce, and Head of the Angola Delegation**
- **Honourable Neville Andre, Governor of the Erongo Region.**
- **Her Worship, Louisa Kativa, Mayor of Swakopmund Town Council**
- **H.E. Patrick Nandago, Namibian Ambassador to the Republic of Angola**
- **H.E. Jovelina Imperial, Angolan Ambassador to Namibia,**
- **Senior Government Officials, Ministries and Agencies on the Namibian and Angolan side**
- **Private Sector Representatives**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Distinguished delegates**

First and foremost, allow me to express my most sincere appreciation to my counterpart H.E. Victor Francisco Dos Santos Fernandes, Minister of Industry and Commerce, and indeed Head of the Angolan Delegation for gracing this occasion with his presence. In the same vein I also want to extend my sincere gratitude to the Governor of Erongo for his leadership in receiving and hosting us in his Region despite the short notice of the invitation.

Allow me also to thank the two (2) Ambassadors and their delegations for making time available amidst their busy schedules to attend this very important inaugural trade and investment event between our two countries. Equally, much appreciation goes to the Executive Director of my Ministry Mr. Sikongo Haihambo and his entire team for working tirelessly to make this event a reality.

Furthermore, I would like to give a standing ovation to the Representatives from the various agencies both state owned and private of Angola and Namibian who have travelled to participate this inaugural meeting of the JTC. This gesture demonstrates commitment and dedication to garner trade and investment opportunities for our two sister countries.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As you may recall that during Namibia's Trade and Investment Mission to the Republic of Angola earlier this year myself and my counterpart committed to inaugurate the JTC, which has been pending since its Terms of Reference were signed in 2014 by our respective predecessors. It is therefore indeed a distinct pleasure for me and my counterpart to inaugurate the Joint Trade Committee as provided for in Article 10 of the Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation, which was signed in 2004. The JTC is established to deal with matters of mutual interest in the domain of trade and investment especially the promotion of trade facilitation and support to the private sector. Hence, the main objectives of this Committee amongst other are:

- to identify potential sectors and areas of cooperation in trade and investment and develop implementation programmes thereof;
- to attend to trade facilitation issues necessary to improve the free flow of goods and services;
- to promote information sharing and dissemination to stakeholders in both countries on the prevailing trade regimes and opportunities available in the areas of trade and investment; etc.

Given these noble objectives, it is my conviction that this Committee will look at issues brought to its attention by both public and private sector in an objectively and transparent manner all the time.

Recalling from the initial engagement at both Senior and Ministerial levels in February 2022, it is a well-known fact that our trade relations have declined from 2019 to date. The decline can be attributed to various factors and challenges globally and regionally such the COVID – 19 pandemic, economic downturn and the current ongoing situation between Russia and Ukraine which has led to hike in commodity prices. Therefore, it is the duty of the JTC to interrogate the factors and challenges that have led to this decline and develop strategies that will address such in an amicable manner for the mutual benefits of all our peoples.

As governments, it is incumbent on us to endeavor to create conducive environments for the private sector in order to expand our industrial bases, which ultimately can increase governments' fiscal space. With this understanding, allow me therefore, to charge the JTC members to be very mindful of their core mandate in stimulating and enabling economic activities in both countries. Our Governments have an unwavering commitment to maintaining peace and stability, and economic and social development for their citizens. Therefore as government officials let us assist our governments in their commitments in maintaining the three (3) critical values in every society.

We recognize the impact and challenges caused by Covid -19, which hampered economic activities in our countries however, at the same time taught us the importance of bilateral and regional integration. Therefore, through continuous dialogue and collaboration, we are convinced that we will conquer all the challenges and provide our business community with the much-anticipated trade opportunities.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Angola and Namibia belong to various regional, continental and international groupings, whose objectives are to enhance trade and development. It is with this understanding that with these opportunities created at both SADC and AfCFTA and coupled by our bilateral and sisterhood relationship. We therefore call up on Angolan companies to consider investing in various sectors in Namibia with specific focus on value addition such as Cosmetics, Manufacturing, Agriculture with specific focus on agro – processing. The emphasis should also be made to the creation of value chains and the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade, and Ministry of Industry and Commerce, as the custodians of the JTC must remain the interface between government, private sector and foreign investors in our countries to ensure the realisation of these initiatives.

In conclusion, allow me to remind the JTC members that their working modalities require them to meet twice a year and provide for extra ordinary sessions to be convened to resolve specific matters in the areas of its mandate as the need may arise. The committee shall as and when necessary establish technical working groups to deal with specific technical matters and report to the JTC. With these modalities in place, I do not see why the JTC should fail in delivering on its mandate.

I am therefore confident that this inaugural meeting has opened the doors and opportunities identified in the recent signed frameworks such as the Memorandum of Understanding on Trade and Investment and the Industrial Cooperation as well as the MoU that establishes Angola –Namibia Business Forum. I must say, I am very impressed by your hard work and commitment, which culminated in the realisation of this mission.

With these few remarks, I wish to declare the inauguration of the Angola – Namibia Joint Trade Committee (JTC).

**I thank you**