



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**STATEMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**

BY

**HON. VERNA SINIMBO (MP), DEPUTY MINISTER OF
INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE AT THE 14TH
ANNUAL OKAKARARA TRADE FAIR**

8 SEPTEMBER 2022

**OKAKARARA TRADE FAIR, OKAKARARA
OTJOZONDJUPA REGION**

Director of Ceremonies;

Honorable. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice president of the Republic of Namibia

Honorable. James Unomasa Uerika, Governor of Otjozondjupa Region;

Her Worship Olga Tjiurutue Katukundu, Mayor of Okakarara;

Hon. Abdal R. Mutjavikua, Regional Councilor of Okakarara constituency

Members of the Business Community;

Members of the Media Fraternity;

Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to stand on all the protocols established earlier

I wish to express my profound gratitude to have been given the honor to introduce the keynote speaker for the event, a man who needs no introduction. But before executing this task, allow me to applaud with the utmost gratitude and admiration the enormous efforts made by all stakeholders involved in the realization of this event.

Judging from the turn up, there has been no better platform in the Otjozondjupa region to promote trade and facilitate business interaction between various role-players locally, regionally and internationally.

Director of ceremonies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

The aim of this gathering is eminent, in exposing the Namibian economy through local and international business intervention.

The theme of the event is aptly captured: “***Unlocking business growth opportunities for Okakarara***”.

It is aimed at promoting unity amidst cultural variances as well as provision of opportunities and platform for exchange of information, ideas and enhances interaction between large numbers of people. Trade fairs and other form of exhibitions are essential events that bring producers and suppliers of goods and services as well as potential customers together to provide the necessary exposure and opportunities for sales and business linkages.

It is in this connection that we – at the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade recognize the critical role of Small and Medium – sized Enterprises in the socio-economic development and economic diversification of the country. The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade through the “***Growth at Home***” initiative, is committed to support industrial, trade and investment activities in the country.

In line with the broad objectives of Vision 2030 and NDP4, the main focus of the ministry’s Growth at Home strategy is: Higher and sustained economic growth and wealth creation; through diversification of Namibia’s economy to achieve a higher percentage share contribution of manufacturing and value addition to our natural resources to our GDP; increased capacity of local

firms to produce and supply goods and services to the domestic and export markets; and - for Namibians to benefit from the growth and wealth created, especially from the exploitation of natural resources, through partnerships and employment opportunities.

I wish to urge companies and individuals to take advantage of this Trade fair and other related forums to exhibit your products and establish new business ventures.

Director of ceremonies,

The person I am about to introduce needs no introduction. He is a seasoned politician and an educator. In my attempt to do so, I will abridge his attributes and the several roles he played pre and post-independence.

Upon Independence he was appointed as Secretary to Cabinet before taking on the role of the Joint-Administrator Authority of Walvis Bay as Chief Executive Officer during its handover to Namibia. He served as a member of the National Assembly and subsequently headed a series of Ministries namely Agriculture; Water and Rural Development; Finance; Information and Broadcasting; Education; and Safety and Security. Between 2012 and early 2018, he served as the SWAPO Party Secretary General before his appointment by H.E Dr. Hage G Geingob, as the second Vice President of the Republic of Namibia.

While his accolades speak volumes of a seasoned politician and civil servant, his passion lies in education, where he earned his nickname Mitiri. A title he proudly embraces today. He is an avid reader, a mentor, the Patron of the Okakarara Trade Fair and an optimist who believes in the ideals of an industrialized Namibia developed by her people pulling in the same direction. The very people we are here to support, our SMEs – the engines and innovation drivers of our economy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is therefore, my singular honour to invite to the podium our key note speaker, to address us.....Join me in an African way, as we welcome

His Excellency, Dr Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia to the podium.....

I thank you.