



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**SPEECH BY HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU, MP  
MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND  
TRADE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL  
OPENING OF THE NSI INSPECTION CENTRE**

**THURSDAY, 21 JULY 2022**

**WALVIS BAY**

**Director of Ceremonies**

**Honourable Florian Donatus - Walvis Bay Rural Constituency Councillor, representing the Honourable Governor of Erongo Region**

**Your Worship Trevino Forbes - the Mayor of Walvis Bay, Honourable Honourable Local Authority Councillors**

**Professor Martha Kandawa-Schultz - Chairperson of the Namibian Standards Council**

**Mr Sikongo Haihambo - Executive Director in the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade**

**Ms. Chie Wasserfall - CEO of the Namibia Standards Institution and all NSI employees,**

**Ms Diina Nashidengo, Acting Deputy Executive Director: Trade and Commence,**

**Commissioner Nikolaus Kupembona, Erongo Police Regional Commander**

**Esteemed Captains of Industry**

**Senior Government Officials**

**Distinguished Invited Guests**

**Members of the Media**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning

I am pleased to join you here today to witness the official opening of the Namibian Standards Institution Inspection Centre, a newly constructed state-of-the-art building that was fully funded by the Government through the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade.

Exactly one year ago, in July 2021, one of Government's multi-million dollar investments came to fruition when the NSI Inspection Centre relocated to the new building we are officially commissioning today. It is indeed a remarkable milestone, which underscores our unyielding resolve to place Namibia in a convenient position within the framework of producing quality products destined for international markets.

I am aware that the Inspection Centre has expanded its operations and ability to offer services to the fishing and related industries because of the large size and suitability of the inspection laboratory. The new facility provides for adequate space to conduct frozen and chilled fish inspections, as it is equipped with both sensory laboratory, and cans inspection laboratory. Adequate space means the inspectorate can process a much more diverse product range and process an increased quantity of products, thus allowing the NSI to move beyond frozen fish inspection as its central focus.

Import inspection for especially canned fish and meat, fishery and related products can now be realized which contributes immensely towards food security for the Namibia consumer and it is our wish and hope that more products will be accommodated soon. I am, therefore, delighted to state that the N\$36 million that Government expended on this project is money well spent, and will go a long way in serving the country now and in future.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

In May 2022, we officially launched the European Union Funded Twinning Project titled "Support to the Namibian Standards Institution and the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade", an initiative aimed at rendering the technical support in areas of Standardisation, Certification, Trade and Industry. Upon completion, this project will capacitate the Inspection Centre with technological compatible equipment to advance its operations, a move that will definitely increase Namibia's trade capacity and prospects.

In addition, the new facility houses a satellite Metrology laboratory that will be operationalised once the necessary equipment has been sourced through the same technical assistance project I mentioned earlier. Once this is achieved, businesses in the Erongo region that require measurement services will be serviced for volume and mass metrology services from this metrology laboratory.

As the Ministry responsible for the implementation of the growth at home strategy, it is pleasing to note that this project involved Namibians from start to finish as it was conceived by Namibians, designed and built by local companies, and now is being operated by Namibians for the good of the Nation. To this end, I wish to reiterate Government's commitment in its quest to empower local businesses, especially Small and Medium Enterprises with necessary skills and platforms required to grow their businesses. We will continue to foster sound relations between the Government and the business fraternity to ensure that we successfully pursue our trade and economic targets as outlined in our national development agendas such as Vision 2030, National Development Goals and the second Harambee Prosperity Plan 2021 – 2025.

**Director of Ceremonies,**

I have no doubt, that the new Inspection Centre will significantly improve the NSI's inspection and metrology capacity to a level that will be appreciated by the business community, and in turn benefit our people greatly. With these few remarks, it is now my distinct honour to declare the NSI Inspection Centre officially opened.

I thank you.