



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**STATEMENT BY**

**HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU, MP**

**MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE NAMIBIAN  
STANDARDS INSTITUTION (NSI) HEAD OFFICE**

**DATE 12 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**NSI HEAD OFFICE**

**37 FELD STREET, WINDHOEK**

**MR. SIKONGO HAIHAMBO – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (MIT);**  
**ALL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS PRESENT;**  
**CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY;**  
**PROF. MARTHA KANDAWA-SCHULZ, OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF THE NSC;**  
**OUTGOING NSC MEMBERS;**  
**MR. PAUL KALENGA, NEWLY APPOINTED CHAIRPERSON OF NSC;**  
**NSC MEMBERS PRESENT;**  
**NSI ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS;**  
**MS. CHIE WASSERFALL- CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER- NSI;**  
**MIT AND NSI OFFICIALS PRESENT**  
**MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA**  
**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

**GOOD MORNING!**

Thank you for being here today to witness the inauguration of the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) Head Office. This is a special moment for many of us as there are those here today, who have worked tirelessly to make this project a reality. Allow me therefore to thank everybody involved for such tremendous work. This inauguration ceremony is testament to the fact that with strong determination and political will, dreams do indeed come true. Today is another milestone for the Government of the Republic of Namibia as we tick off a very important goal that has been successfully realised.

As we may be all aware, the NSI is creature of statute, which was established by virtue of the Standards Act 18 of 2005. To ensure that the institution is capable of fulfilling its mandate, it is imperative for government to ensure that adequate infrastructure is provided. The building that we are inaugurating here today was acquired on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August 2020. The journey to this end started way back in 2020 and eventually we are witnessing the inauguration of this property called Lithon House.

I am informed that the facility covers an area of 1209 Square metres. It houses the administration, standards and certification departments. For any institution to perform optimally, it is imperative to provide a conducive working environment for the employees to thrive. As I look at this facility, I harbour no doubts that a conducive working environment has been provided and it is up to us as employees to ensure that we take care of this very beautiful facility so that we ensure that it serves future generations.

I am further informed that the building is equipped with a solar system that has enabled the institution to lower its grid cost by 50% compared to the previous building where NSI was operating from. I wish to pause here and applaud the Board and Management for coming up with such a cost saving initiative. I further appeal to other State Owned Enterprises to follow suit by introducing austerity measures that have the potential to save costs.

This is indeed a remarkable milestone in the history of the NSI and it shows growth in the asset base of the Institution. I thus once again congratulate you and implore you at the same time to do more in the quest to expand the services.

**Ladies and gentleman,**

I wish to inform all present that we have recently, on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 also inaugurated the NSI inspection centre in Walvis Bay. This centre conduct frozen and chilled fish inspection and has a sensory laboratory as well.

The NSI do not only operate in the space of food inspection but also offer other services such as conformity assessments, metrology services, standards development and coordination, standards related training as well as other services related to their portfolio.

**Director of Ceremony,**

Allow me at this juncture to once again welcome the newly appointed NSC members in our midst and to implore you to kick off where the previous NSC has left the ship. I urge you to provide strategic leadership to the NSI in order for the NSI to provide competent and essential support and services to industries, the Government of Namibia and all other stakeholders in line with the international best practices and norms. I further entreat you together with management to maintain this building.

We have also recently inaugurated a new Metrology Advisory Board on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The Board is headed by a Director (Chairperson) and the functions of this Board are amongst others to advise the Minister on any matter falling within the scope of the Metrology legislation.

The Metrology Advisory Board conducted its first meeting at which it resolved for the Minister of Industrialisation and Trade and the NSI, as an accredited body, to enter into an agreement in order for the NSI to be the metrology agency for the performance of metrology functions on behalf of the Ministry. This agreement was concluded on 14 July 2022 and duly gazetted as per the requirements of the Metrology Amendment Act No 17 of 2005.

In the meantime, the Ministry has introduced a new Metrology Bill, which will repeal the Trade Metrology Act of 1973 and the 2005 Trade Metrology Amendment Act once promulgated.

**Ladies and Gentleman,**

I sincerely hope the two teams being the NSC and the Advisory Metrology Board will combine their synergies to advance the mandate of the NSI. Coordination is key, let us ensure that we work together for the common good of our citizens. Let us not undo what has been achieved but rather improve on it. Let us draw on the past gains to build an effective and efficient NSI.

I have no doubt, that the new building will improve the operational and administrative capacities of the NSI to the satisfaction of the NSI stakeholders, the business community and the Namibian people at large.

In conclusion, this building is a credit to all those who have worked to bring it to fruition. The building provides the NSI with an impressive new home to pursue its mandate

With these few remarks, I now declare the Namibian Standards Institution Head office officially inaugurated.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!**