



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**BY**

**HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU MP**

**MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF VUCHE-  
VUCHE SIFTED WHITE MAIZE MEAL WAREHOUSE –**

***KANDJENGEDI, OSHAKATI***

***FRIDAY, 8 APRIL 2022,***

**Director of Proceedings – Mr. Peter Nevonga**

**Hon. Elia Irimari - Governor of Oshana Region**

**His Worship Leonard Hango - Mayor of Oshakati**

**Dr. Richard Nchabi Kamwi – Owner: Vuche-Vuche Project**

**Distinguished Invited Guests**

**Members of the Media**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am very pleased to be here with you all for the inauguration of **Vuche - Vuche Sifted White Maize Meal Warehouse**. Today, a new venture is born from a humble beginning that has potential to contribute immensely to the transformation of our economy and further see agricultural commodities take centre stage in our endeavor to ensuring irreversible economic growth and development.

I visited Farm Rimini in the Otavi area around 2020 and I am happy to share with you today that the massive productive capacity of the farm is commendable. I am also aware that Farm Rimini was recognised as one of the best producer of the year by Agribank Namibia in 2020. This is praiseworthy as it shows that indeed Namibians can produce sufficient food products for self-reliance and export especially given the new developments around the globe which can lead to food shortages due to reliance on imports. We are more excited because this endeavour includes a value addition component.

Our Growth at Home strategy reinforces the importance of accelerating economic growth, reducing income inequality and increasing employment. At the core of our strategy is the need to trigger a commodity - based industrialisation as the engine of growth and economic transformation. Namibia is endowed with significant human and natural resources that can be used to advance industrialisation and structural economic transformation through value addition strategies in all sectors, but particularly in agriculture and agro - processing private sector investment.

The Ministry is further advancing sector growth strategies under our Growth at Home targeting specific sectors such as Cosmetics, Charcoal, Game Meat to mention but a few. During our visit to the farm we have observed that there were an abundant supply of a variety of other products such as Kalahari Melons whose seeds could be transformed and value added into oil which is an input in cosmetic products. I would like to specifically encourage you to get in touch with

the Namibia Cosmetics Association to see to it that the Kalahari Melons seeds is value added and exported. The fundamental point of departure is to make the most of available natural resources and to add value to as many raw materials produced in the country as possible. There is need to build on existing productive capacity and skills, but also to initiate new enterprises where necessary.

This that we are witnessing here today is a clear testimony that our economy is geared towards a higher level of value addition and enhanced local supply - side capacity as well as better co-ordination and collaboration between all role players in the economy, including public - private collaborations. Our ultimate focus is to ensure that the impact of our work is visible through tangible improvements in terms of the capacity of our local industries to produce efficiently and competitively as well as in the socio - economic welfare of the citizens of our country through employment and business opportunities.

We must aim therefore to develop value chains that are based on raw materials available in Namibia. We are also cognisant of the regional value chains through which we could accelerate regional economic integration. We need to link producers of raw materials to those who can further process such material and if there is no one ready to perform this role, Government may need to initiate and incubate the process. In this process we need to identify all constraints and find solutions, and to provide targeted support to the private sector to rise up to the challenge.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Allow me therefore to congratulate **Vuche - Vuche** for this commendable initiative which will culminate in long term growth of our agricultural sector that may drive our economic prosperity and food security.

**Thank you very much!**