



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU, MP

MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH NIPDB'S ONE STOP CENTRE

DATE: FRIDAY, 28 OCTOBER 2022

VENUE: NIPDB HEAD OFFICE, BRB BUILDING

WINDHOEK

**Director of Ceremony - Ms. Catherine Shipushu (Senior Manager:
Marketing, Branding & Communications at NIPDB)**

Ms. Nangula Uaandja - Chairperson & CEO – NIPDB

All Senior Government Officials

Distinguished invited guests

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning to you all,

Let me use this opportunity to thank the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) for inviting me to deliver a keynote address at this auspicious occasion for the launch of the investors One Stop Centre (OSC).

The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board amongst others is mandated to improve the country's competitiveness and the Ease of Doing Business. In its bid to improve the ease of doing business and subsequently Namibia's ranking the NIPDB established an investors One Stop Centre that we are launching here today.

This is a crucial investment facilitation mechanism where relevant government offices are coordinated at a single point to provide prompt, efficient and transparent services to investors to ultimately shortens and simplifies administrative procedures and guidelines thereby removing bottlenecks faced by both local and foreign investors in establishing and running businesses in Namibia.

The centre further aims to streamline procedures for new and existing investors in order to enable them to easily conduct their businesses in a conducive investment environment.

The improvement of our country's Ease of Doing Business is a critical precondition in ensuring that this strategic objective is fulfilled, through the operationalisation of the investors One Stop Centre. The OSC exists to facilitate prompt, efficient, timely, and transparent services as well as boost the confidence of both local and foreign investors in all productive sectors of the economy.

This is a single access point for information and services to investors, housing nine (9) Public Entities that are critical to the investment facilitation process. Investors will be dealing directly with the OSC, which is situated at the NIPDB headquarters, here in Windhoek. The services offered by the OSC will range from consultations, business information, facilitation of visas and work permit applications, and provision of relevant information regarding business registration services such as business establishment, income tax and VAT and investment support, amongst many others.

I am happy to note that the OSC will be complemented by a Working Committee, composed of public and private sector stakeholders who will be responsible for driving change in the domestic economy regarding the ease of doing business. The Working Committee is expected to deliver on specific set key deliverables.

In our bid to attract and facilitate investments, the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) in collaborations with other stakeholders is currently at the consultative stage of enacting a revised Namibian investment law to facilitate the

attraction of investments and growth of sectors as per the new investments dictates and other strategic investment priorities of the country. The creation of a One Stop Centre is therefore provided for within this revised Bill.

MIT saw it fit to shore up and revive our Investment regulatory and policy regime to embrace a modern and transparent legal framework that accommodates new economic dynamics and developments to ensure that Namibia leverage on dimensions that covers new economic and investment priority areas.

Allow me once again to congratulate the NIPDB for its commitment to ease investment attraction in Namibia. This will ultimately result in a number of quality and sustainable employment created; potential for skills and technology transfer; utilisation of local raw materials in the production process; potential for increased export and import substitution; potential to create backward and forward linkages; innovation and creativity and focus on priority sector under the economic diversification drive.

With these few remarks, I hereby declare the investors One Stop Centre officially launched.

I Thank You All!