



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE MINISTERIAL
VISIT TO THE KAVANGO CATTLE RANCH
(KCR)**

FRIDAY, 12 AUGUST 2022

KAVANGO CATTLE RANCH

“Growth at home”

All official correspondence must be addressed to the Executive Director

Mr. Mpasi Haingura – Chief Regional Officer: Kavango West Regional Council

Mr. Walter Sirongo – Head of Agribusiness: NIDA

Mr. Gerhard Mouton – KCR Farm Manager

MIT and KCR Staff present

Distinguished invited guests

Ladies and Gentleman

Good Morning.

I am glad to see you all here today to join the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT)'s delegation following recent developments and media reports regarding both livestock and wildlife mortalities due to thirst at the Kavango Cattle Ranch (KCR). The situation is highly regrettable especially at a time when as a country we are trying to make inroads on our much needed economic recovery. It is therefore disheartening to observe the undesirable state of affairs at KCR.

The MIT has duly taken note of the Namibia Industrial Development Agency (NIDA) Management recent visit here at the farm and commitments made to turn around the state of affairs. We have further taken note of the media release by the NIDA on its position and elucidating what transpired. However as the Ministry under which NIDA' and by extension KCR's operational mandate resorts, we also saw it prudent to conduct an assessment at the macro-level to allow us to devise appropriate policy interventions.

The upgrading and optimisation of the Kavango Cattle Ranch was identified as a flagship project for value addition in the Growth at Home Execution Strategy for industrialisation. Consequently, the MIT developed a business plan for KCR which was completed and endorsed in 2017. The endorsement led to ensuring its programming within the MIT's development budget portfolio under the National Planning Commission.

The KCR Business Plan is premised around four business and development areas- an abattoir and a meat processing facility, fodder production, game reserve as well as ensuring construction of labour housing. This business and development pivot is meant to ensure the creation of private sector opportunities. However, given the state that KCR as an asset was in 2016,

the Business Plan correctly identified the need for additional public investment to bring the facility to some level of development to ensure the optimisation of private sector investment attraction.

The resultant public investment pertains to substantial fencing work, rehabilitation of waterpoints and debushing work. These public investment measures entails a delicate balancing act to ensure a viable elephant management strategy whilst work is ongoing but also mainstreaming micro, small and medium enterprises employment opportunities. Given the development budget, programming the MIT along with NIDA has been implementing the work within the above-described context.

Collaborative partnerships are therefore key during this public investment phase and as issues arise. Thus in regard to the identified game and livestock mortalities due to thirst the MIT and Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) has agreed on co-financing to fast-track the rehabilitation of the water supply points immediately. Both parties have secured all necessary internal approvals and endorsement. Secondly, to fast-track the bringing on stream of the wildlife reserve option both MIT and MEFT will finalize a Memorandum of Agreement to ensure a management plan to support both breeding and nature based tourism enterprise development.

The MIT would herewith thus take this opportunity to express its sincerest gratitude to the MEFT and its Game Product Trust Fund for the much valued outreach and collaborative stance that shall ensure the further averting of both livestock and game mortalities. In addition it is equally appreciated that an MoA will further embellish both parties resolve to ensure the sustenance of our natural capital through the completion of a management plan for the envisaged wildlife reserve.

Let us therefore hold hands as stakeholders to realise the maximum potential of this farm.

I thank you!
