



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

KEYNOTE STATEMENT BY HON. LUCIA IIPUMBU, MP

MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

**ON THE OCCASION FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE
OZONE LAYER 2022**

**THEME: “*MONTREAL PROTOCOL @35: GLOBAL
COOPERATION PROTECTING THE LIFE ON EARTH*”.**

FRIDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER 2022

VENUE: WINDHOEK VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Director of Proceedings Ms Amalia Nangolo

**Mr. Polli Andima: Centre Manager: Windhoek Vocational Training Centre
and all VTC's Trainees present**

**Mr. Parastus Nepolo: President of the Heating, Ventilation and Cooling
Association (HVAC)**

**Mr. Kephass Shatona: Senior Manager Enforcement and Compliance
Namibia Revenue Agency (NAMRA)**

Ms. Helvi Iileka: Acting Director at Namibia Energy Institute (NEI)

Senior Government Officials present

Ozone Day Facilitators

Distinguished Invited Guests

Distinguished members of the 4th Estate (Media)

Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to you all!

It is my profound gratitude that I am invited to officiate and celebrate the International Day of the Preservation of the Ozone Layer on this day 16th September 2022, for the first time being held at Windhoek Vocational Training Centre. This year's event will be celebrated under the theme: ***"Montreal Protocol@35: Global Cooperation protecting the life on Earth"***. The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, is observed annually on 16th September. The date was designated by the United Nations General Assembly in 1994, commemorating the date in 1987 when United Nations' Member States signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Firstly, let me start by recognising the commendable efforts by the facilitators and organizers of this event in working tirelessly beyond the call of duty to bring all of us together.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Namibia is party to the Montreal Protocol of 1987 on substances that deplete the ozone layer. The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) is playing a

coordinating role to ensure that Namibia remains compliant to the Montreal Protocol. One of our obligations is to facilitate training platforms on the handling of alternative technologies, which is the alternative to the substances that are high in global warming and Ozone depletion potential.

The National Ozone Unit through the Ministry has over the years supported the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning courses at Vocational Training Centres in Ongwediva, Gobabis, Windhoek and Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT) with the equipment for hands on training at the centres as well as refrigerant identifier machine to Customs and Excise Officers of NAMRA for the identification of gasses at ports of entries.

The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade through its projects known as Industrial Upgrading and Modernization Programme (IUMP), has also supported two companies in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (RAC) sector in 2021 in an effort to start driving the localization of such value chains.

In the same vein, the National Ozone Unit has supported trainers from VTC's and officials from Customs and Excises by sending them to Mauritius and South Africa on trainer of trainers (TOTs) workshops. This initiative aims to equip trainers with the required skills for them to impart and to ensure a continuous progress in supporting the industry to shift to energy efficient and environmental friendly technology. Therefore, although not desirable, we witness for example the impounding of the imported ice cream machines by small entrepreneurs due to them containing prohibited gas. This is normally due to ignorance and days such as the Ozone Day is meant to help us to increase awareness.

MIT cannot, independently, efficiently and successfully, ensure that there is minimal or no illicit trade in Ozone Depleting Substances without symbiotic partnerships with our Customs and Excise Officers and other stakeholders. Our Customs and Excise officials are the ones on a daily basis that are at coalface of illicit trade of these toxic chemicals across our borders. In this respect, we need to continuously encourage them, and build their capacity not just on chemicals listed under the Montreal Protocol, but also on other chemicals of priority that need concerted effort by SACU and SADC member states.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am elated to note that the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade's National Ozone Unit, under the Directorate of Industrial Development, is at the forefront of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons phase-out and will continue to promote environmental friendly and energy efficient products.

In an effort to meet international obligations, the country has ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone Layer in May last year, which came into force last month in August. This Amendment aims to tackle climate issues caused by Hydrofluorocarbons. The Hydrofluorocarbons, which are replacing Hydrochlorofluorocarbons, are not a threat to the ozone layer per se but have a high Global Warming Potential. Henceforth, parties to the Montreal Protocol have proactively risen to address this challenge by adopting the Kigali Amendment whose entry into force has already commenced as indicated above.

As we are gathered here on this auspicious occasion commemorating World Ozone Day let us again, commit and rededicate ourselves, to be zealous and to work together towards making our country an example that other countries within and beyond our continent, would wish to emulate. The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade will continue to focus on building the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning sector and develop skills for the sector. Its role will not only be limited to regulating the sector. We will endeavor with the support of our Development Partners to support businesses in the sector that are capable of technology transfer to build a robust Refrigeration and Air Conditioning sector. We are also priming the regime of sustainable special economic zones for this resolve.

In conclusion, I wish to commend all our stakeholders for their unwavering support and concerted efforts in making this Protocol a success. I further would like to extend our gratitude to all our Customs and Excise officers within and across our borders for their efforts in combating illegal trade of ozone depleting substances and ensuring that our countries remain compliant to their Montreal Protocol obligations. And for our Vocational Training centres for their efforts on imparting alternative technology knowledge to the Industry both at formal and informal level. With these few remarks, I wish you all a fruitful day and safe weekend.

I THANK YOU!