

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



REMARKS

BY

**HON. VERNA SINIMBO DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALIZATION AND TRADE
NAMIBIA**

**AT THE OCCASION PENDUKA 30 YEARS CEREMONY, THURSDAY, 14 AUGUST
2022, PENDUKA VILLAGE WINDHOEK, GOREANGAB, KATUTURA, WINDHOEK.**

Director of Proceedings,

- **Mrs Christein Roos and Mrs. Martha Muulyua, the Penduka Trust Founders,**
- **Members of the Penduka Board of Trustees,**
- **Various Representatives of Private and Public Institutions present here,**
- **Members of the media,**
- **Distinguished guests,**
- **All protocol observed.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

A blessed good morning to everyone present,

1. It is with delight and great pleasure that I stand before you today to celebrate a good 30 years of the existence of Penduka, a joyous and memorable occasion that brought us all here today. It is an honor to be here in your midst once again to witness and celebrate Penduka at 30 with everyone present.

Director of Proceedings,

2. Allow me to shade some light on the background of Penduka. Founded in 1992 by Dutch anthropologist Christien Roos & her first board member, Martha Muulyau. The two women shared a history dating back to at Ehafo, a former organization that assisted people with disabilities to acquire critical skills to assimilate (integrate) as best possible into the Namibian society. Both of them understood the power of empowering people, and especially woman through business and artisan entrepreneurship. Starting out with only 6 women and one of the first organizations in Namibia focused exclusively on serving and empowering woman suffering the effects of unemployment and poverty,
3. Penduka was established with the sole aim of developing creative potential amongst women, hence the very unique arts Penduka makes. Penduka has been running strong for the past 30 years. At the core of this drive is to eradicate poverty and social challenges among vulnerable woman in Namibia. What a mile stone this organization has achieved, starting from such humble beginnings since 1992, a great round of applause for their continued dedication and commitment to empower the Namibian women. I must highlight appreciation of Penduka in the role played over 30 years towards employment and income creation for our

Namibian Women, thank you for meeting the government of the Republic of Namibia half way, Omaakeee!!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Permit me to sincerely invite and encourage private and public organizations to endeavor support to Penduka Trust, in order to keep its doors open to our community, by hosting workshops, conferences, and team building exercises here, using the restaurant, pedal boat rides and accommodation facilities, make it part of your corporate social responsibility programs to come out here each year. Organizations can also partner with Penduka on special social programs and new projects the organization is involved with, like the “adult diaper project” the organization is planning on, by becoming involved with funding and or expertise. Penduka already has the infrastructure and machinery to undertake this.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. Permit me to highlight that the woman of Penduka firmly believe that sustainable economies is developed from businesses which operates fairly and ethically and strives to maximize social impact alongside economic returns for beneficiaries. As a result, woman who have accrued the necessary entrepreneurial skills are encouraged and continuously supported to start up their own enterprise. Looking

forward, Penduka wishes to expand their operations by increasing the number of woman benefitting from their initiatives while at the same time serving as a community Centre and networking hub giving out advice on health, nutrition, family matters, recycling, alternative energy etc.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. The Ministry of Industrialization and Trade is joyous to know that the Penduka is assisting our surrounding communities with skills training in the handcraft industry as well as provision of Entrepreneurial skill that can empower our Namibian women.

7. Let me take this opportunity to share with the entire team that the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade foresees a great relationship with Penduka through the Ministry's EMPRETEC Program. In 2019, as a Ministry, we officially launched the Entrepreneurship and Technology (EMPRETEC) Namibia programme. The overall goal for EMPRETEC Namibia is to bring about a transformational change in unleashing the growth potential of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in Namibia through entrepreneurial mind-set change and skills training; as well as provision of a comprehensive range of business advisory services. These will be achieved through using best practice of the EMPRETEC model, which has been established under the EMPRETEC framework of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) initiative. So far, 105 entrepreneurs were successfully trained, the participants came from all the 14 regions. I would like to invite and encourage and sensitize the women and youths of Penduka to apply for this training, the applications are available on the website of the Ministry with such great initiative

undertaking at Penduka our Ministry is indeed an open door to assist and offer entrepreneurial skills training.

8. Lastly, I want to thank the international partners of Penduka Trust, which has stood strong over the years to support the organization. The Penduka Foundation in the Netherlands who is the sole distributor of Penduka products in Europe, they also give continuous financial contributions, strategic direction and advice. I want to thank the Fair Story Organization of South Korea for their continued partnership over the years and who distribute Penduka products overseas.
9. In conclusion I wish the organization all the best for the coming 30 years, I relay my support to the board of trustees to continue steering the organization in the right direction and continue to exercise their fiduciary duties. Management and staff, this organization belongs to you, especially the staff as direct beneficiaries, always give your best, as you are essentially working for yourselves.
10. I urge everyone present today to buy a gift in the craft shop, I will follow by example.
11. Let us celebrate Penduka.
12. I thank you.