



## **REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**REMARKS BY SIKONGO HAIHAMBO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION & TRADE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE NAMIBIA-ANGOLA JOINT  
TRADE COMMITTEE, SWAKOPMUND, REPUBLIC OF  
NAMIBIA**

## **SWAKOPMUND, MONDAY, 25 APRIL 2022**

- Director of Ceremonies, Ms Stacey Pinto CEO of the Namibia Trade Forum,
- Your Worship, Louisa Kativa, Mayor of Swakopmund Town,
- H.E. Patrick Nandago, Namibian Ambassador to the Republic of Angola
- H.E. Jovelina Imperial e Costa, Angolan Ambassador to the Republic of Namibia,
- Dr. Adelino Naquarta, Co-Chair and Head of the Senior Government Officials from Angola,
- Mr. Keve Guimarães, Acting President of Agency for Private Investment and Export Promotion Agency (AIPEX)
- Mr. Amorbelo Sintogua and Dr. Ricardo Jaime Carvalho from the Luanda-Bengo Special Economic Zone (ZEE),
- Senior Government Officials, Ministries and Agencies on the Namibian and Angolan side
- Distinguished Members of the Joint Trade Committee from Namibia and Angola
- Members of the Media
- Distinguished delegates
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my singular honor and indeed on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia to welcome you all to the Land of

the Brave, as we host the Inaugural Session of the Namibia-Angola Joint Trade Committee.

As it can be recalled, the Governments of the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of Angola signed the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement in 2004, followed by the Terms of Reference to operationalize the Namibia-Angola Joint Trade Committee (JTC) in 2014. The JTC seeks to adopt appropriate measures that enhance promotion and development of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries within the existing legal frameworks.

Namibia and Angola continues to enjoy good relations which dates back for five decades ago predated our independence in 1990. Despite all that, trade volumes between the two Member States falls below the desired levels as compared to Namibia and other neighboring countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we will only be able to achieve all those desired outcome once this Committee is fully constituted and operationalised with a view to oversee the implementation of the afore said Agreement.

The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade is constantly inundated with complaints from traders on challenges they encounter at

our main borders, a situation that is against the spirit of the World Trade Facilitation Agreement to which we are all signatories. Therefore, the two countries need to pursue a more focused agenda that will increase trade and investment opportunities.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In this regard, the operationalisation of the JTC remains vitally important in our concerted efforts to solidify trade, investment and economic cooperation between the two countries. JTC also is a vehicle that is driven to address behind the borders barriers that would otherwise impede the flow of goods and services; encourage and promote investment opportunities, improve and/or initiate policy directives.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Now, that opportunities are created both at SADC and AfCFTA and coupled by our bilateral and sisterhood relationship, emphasis should be that the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade, and Ministry of Industry and Commerce remain the interface between government, private sector and foreign investors in our countries. I would therefore like to commend and appreciate both the Angolan Investment and Export Promotion Agency (APIEX) and the Namibia Investment and Promotion

Development Board (NIPDB) for taking the initiative to come and explore business and investments opportunities in our countries.

Allow me to conclude with words of encouragement to both the Namibian and Angolan Senior Officials, to deliver on their mandate as outlined in their Terms of Reference.

Thank you once again for making this event happen, as I am confident that we will have fruitful deliberations and I look forward to seeing the tangible results by implementing the signed Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation signed in 2004.

**I thank you**