



Republic of Namibia

CLOSING REMARKS

BY

HON. VERNA SINIMBO , MP

DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE

**NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN
CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AFCFTA)**

21 NOVEMBER 2022

Director of Ceremonies,

Hon. Lucia lipumbu, Minister of Industrialisation and Trade,

Mr. Seng Pang, UN Resident Coordinator, UN Namibia,

**Ms. Olayinka Bandele, Chief –Inclusive Industrialization
Section,SRO-SA,UNECA,**

Mr. Maleku Desta, Coordinator ATPC- UNECA,

Mr. Haihambo Sikongo, Executive Director of MIT,

**Ms. Charity Mwiya, CEO, Namibia Chamber of Commerce and
Industry**

Private Sector Representatives and Business Community

Government Officials, Ministries and Agencies,

Distinguished invited participants,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning

1. I feel honored and privileged to have been given, the opportunity to propose a vote of thanks on this special occasion. I would like to thank all the invitees for honoring our

invitation in attending the, launch of the National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy and Action Plan.

2. First and foremost I would like to thank Hon. Lucia lipumbu for launching the Strategy that will culminate into market access of national exporters in the African market. I also want to thank, Mr. Seng Pang, UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Melaku Desta , UNECA and Ms. Charity Mwiya who spared time from their busiest schedules to grace this occasion.
3. Furthermore, I wish to express my sincere gratitude, to Mr. Paul Kalenga, and Dr. Omu for the development of this strategy that will benefit will Namiba and Africa by broader and deeper economic intergration.We are also grateful to our development partners for their continuous support and for making this event possible.
4. In the same vein,I would like to thank the presenters for the interesting and informative presentations which took us through a broad picture of what AfCFTA entails and its benefits.
5. Ladies and gentlemen, we can only measure the success of the AfCFTA implementation if we are able to deliberately enable entrepreneurs to join regional value chains and trade impact-fully and profitability within africa and of course beyond.

6. In the perspective of the great pan-Africanist, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah who stated that: ***“It is clear that we must find an African solution to Africa’s problems, and that this can only be found in African unity. Divided, we are weak; united, Africa could become one of the greatest forces for good in the world.”***
7. With that being said, SADC and Africa as a continent is known to be rich in diversity, hence we should do all we can to celebrate the rich heritage on offer. I therefore encourage entrepreneurs, take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area, as initiatives of these nature create a harmonized trade regime, empowering entrepreneurs in Africa to trade freely, which contributing to the socio economic development of their respective communities and countries at large.
8. I am therefore, very much grateful to the MIT officials and UNECA team , who worked hard to ensure that this occasion becomes a success. To the business community , captains of industries , private sector and Small and Medium entrepreneurs, I feel proud and thank you for being with us today.

9. Lastly to members of the media let me thank you for your interest in covering the event and ensuring that it reaches and extend to those who are not physically present.

Finally , I declare this launch officially closed, and have great day.

I thank you.

