



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE

WELCOMING REMARKS

BY

SIKONGO HAIHAMBO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**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**
- **Hon. Verna Sinimbo, Deputy Minister of Industrialisation and Trade**
- **Mr. Seng Pang, UN Resident Coordinator, UN Namibia**
- **Messrs. Melaku Desta, Olayinka Bandele, Batanai Chikwene and other Representatives from UNECA present here**
- **Ms. Charity Mwiya, CEO, Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry,**
- **Mr. Paul Kalenga, Consultant on the AfCFTA Strategy**
- **Private Sector Representatives and Business Community**
- **Senior Government Officials and Representatives from, Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies**
- **Distinguished invited participants**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning!!

Let me extend a warm welcome to everyone here today. Today is a day to remember for many years to come. A day to celebrate the launch of the National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy and Action Plan for Namibia.

I wish to extend a warm welcome to you all for taking time from your very busy schedules to attend the launch of the National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy and Action Plan for Namibia. Today's event is once more a demonstration that Namibia's commitment towards the effective implementation of the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Let me use this opportunity to extend a special word of welcome to Hon Lucia lipumbu, our Minister for Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) in the Republic of Namibia. It is always a pleasure to have you in our midst, especially on historic occasions such as this. To complete the Ministry's political leadership, we are equally honoured to have in our midst Hon Verna Sinimbo, the Deputy Minister for MIT. Welcome madam Deputy Minister.

Mr. Seng Pang, UN Resident Coordinator - Namibia, and Representatives from UNECA and UNDP. Thank you so much for joining us today.

Madam Charity Mwiya, the Chief Executive Officer of the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI), and members of the business fraternity. Welcome!

Colleagues from other Offices, Ministries and Agencies of Government who are indeed key to the successful implementation of the National Implementation Strategy. We appreciate that you could join us this morning.

Allow me at this juncture to express our appreciation to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for providing us with the necessary support in developing our National Implementation Strategy. We are equally grateful to all other stakeholders who provided valuable inputs during the development of the Strategy and all those who played diverse roles.

We also appreciate members of the media, who continue to support us in propagating the "gospel" of AfCFTA. Through you we are able to reach the entire nation and beyond. A very good morning to you and we appreciate you being with us this morning.

As part of the AfCFTA implementation process, State Parties including Namibia have developed National AfCFTA Implementation Strategies and Action Plans, to compliment a broader development framework especially in relation to the trade policy environment of each State Party to the Agreement.

As you may be aware, the overall objective of today's event is to launch the National AfCFTA Strategy and to make it publicly available for implementation by stakeholders and economic operators. I would like to call upon all stakeholders particularly the private sector and members of the business community to actively get involved and take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the AfCFTA. As Government, be assured that we will provide the necessary support in creating an enabling environment to ensure the successful implementation of the AfCFTA.

In conclusion, Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to call upon all stakeholders to include the implementation strategy in their work plans in order to ensure effective implementation.

On this note, I wish, to once again welcome you all to this important event.

I thank you