



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**RIGHT HONOURABLE DR. SAARA KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA**

**PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**AT THE**

**OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY  
9<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE ONDANGWA TRADE  
AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION UNDER THE THEME: "EMBRACING  
ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP"**

**2 MAY 2019**

**ONDANGWA**

- Director of Proceedings
- Honourable Members of Cabinet and Parliament
- Honourable Governor of Oshana Region Cde Elia Irimari and the other Governors here present
- Honourable Regional Councillors
- Your Worship the Mayor of Ondangwa Cde Paavo Amwele and other local Authority Councillors present here
- Senior Government Officials
- Distinguished Traditional and other Community Leaders present here
- Distinguished Exhibitors and Organisers
- Invited Guests
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

1. I am greatly delighted to be part of this occasion of the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Ondangwa Trade and Industrial Exhibition under the theme “Embracing Economic Growth Through Entrepreneurship”
2. Indeed Trade Fairs’ and Business Expos’ have become a permanent feature on the calendar of the Namibian Business Sector, and Ondangwa should be proud of the success it has recorded in nurturing this event here over the years since its Launch.
3. Without doubt, this is a positive development because these events provide a platform for business people, to market their products and for the public to know the products on offer from different producers through Trade Fairs’ and Business Expos’ Business People also have an opportunity to meet and interact with one another, thereby establishing a basis for possible future business associations.

4. Therefore, this event is an important aspect of business and economic growth promotion.
5. Trade Fairs' and Business Expos' are also important platforms for the promotion of regional and continental economic integration, and they support our efforts to improve our participation in global trade, as exhibitors come both from all across our Nation and beyond our borders.

Indeed, Namibia needs to embrace the tenets of what is known as the Salad Bowl Theory. This is a Business Theory which promotes pluralism or multiculturalism in entrepreneurship, and embrace unity in diversity. Mahatma Ghandi one said; "Our Ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization. To achieve this, we must start at home. This is where we build confidence and incorporate the relevant order qualifiers into our products to enable us to compete in the regional and global markets. Namibia's Growth at Home Strategy and Industrialisation policy are both aiming at achieving this.

6. As a government, we are promoting these policy tools by supporting market access for domestically produced products through giving preference to them under the public procurement, providing business finance and mentorship to local producers and traders.
7. However, although government support is of utmost importance for business development and economic growth the bulk of our economy is based on private business activities and much of our national savings are held by private financial institutions.
8. Namibian Private businesses should thus embrace one another by developing business linkages through local sourcing private businesses,

ensuring improved access to affordable financial products that are suited to the diverse needs of our local enterprises, as well as businesses that want to or have ventured into value addition and manufacturing.

9. As a Country we need to make determined efforts to curb the high dependence on imports and also diversify the economy from a raw commodity based economy to one that is industrialised, taking advantage of our vast natural resources in order to optimise job creation and resilience to external shocks to the economy to ensure sustainable and higher economic growth.
10. The Government remains committed to continue supporting the private sector to optimise its contribution to sustainable economic growth and industrialisation by ensuring a sound policy environment, political stability, appropriate infrastructure and improved access to foreign markets by negotiating trade agreements with foreign governments.
11. Government will also promote effective political governance and public service delivery by strengthening performance and accountability of public officials and institutions and streamlining government processes, including by leveraging ICT to expedite service delivery and reduce costs of doing business in the country.
12. The government is also prioritising delivery of serviced land both for Businesses and for Households to put up their homes, and we are inviting the private sector to partner with us in this regard by making use of innovate instruments such as Public Private Partnerships.
13. Finally, as our Country is struggling with severe drought, Government has adopted a drought relief program to assist households and farmers

affected by the drought through provision of food, water and animals licks and fodder.

14. Communities were called upon to work with Regional Councils to ensure effective implementation of the drought relief programs in our respective regions.
15. Government also calls upon Namibians to support efforts to build our Country's resilience to disasters such as droughts which have now become regular occurrences and are quite costly to the country.
16. I want to conclude by thanking Ondangwa Town Council and Oshana Region as well as other stakeholders who contributed to the organization for the hosting of this Trade Fair for a job well done, and wish you success.

It is now my pleasure to declare the Ondangwa Trade Fair for 2019 Officially Open!