



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**RT. HONOURABLE SAARA KUUGONGELWA-AMADHILA,**

**PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**ON THE**

**NAMIBIA 4<sup>TH</sup> INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION CONFERENCE & EXPO 2022**

**SAFARI HOTEL**

**WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE 2022**

- H.E. Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia;
- H.E. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia;
- Honourable Speaker;
- Honourable Chairperson;
- Cabinet Ministers present;
- Members of Parliament;
- Senior Government Officials;
- Captains of the Industries;
- Members of the Task Force on the 4th IR;
- Distinguished invited Guests;
- Members of the Media;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

Very Good afternoon.

1. It is pleasing that we have successfully concluded this first ever Namibia 4th Industrial Revolution Conference and Expo. I am pleased and honored to make a few remarks at the closing of this event.
2. At the onset, I wish to thank His Excellency the President for his foresight in establishing a task team to assist our country to work out a strategy for optimizing the opportunities that come with the industrial revolution to advance socioeconomic development, and for officiating at the opening of this conference.

I also applaud the Task Force for the well- researched report which offers valuable proposals for harnessing the opportunities brought by the industrial revolution, and for organizing this conference which provided a platform for the exchange and dissemination of information about the 4IR.

3. The evolution, from the First Industrial Revolution to the Third Industrial Revolution, shows how the advent of technologies shape our lives, and more importantly how the use of technologies has become indispensable for enhancing delivery of services and in propelling us to more revolutions, such as the 4IR.
4. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is thus, a developmental phenomenon which was inevitable. For the public sector, the industrial revolution offers the opportunity to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. In essence, it looks beyond pure technological advances and looks at innovative methods of accomplishing the greatest good for the greatest number of people, communities, and organizations. If applied correctly, the 4IR implications to our societies would be improved quality of life, increased income levels, and bridged gap in inequalities.
5. As such, workers in every industry – women and men – will experience the transformation brought about by the 4IR.

6. Government on its part, in preparation for this Revolution, has started reengineering its processes by re-looking at the current way of delivering services and mapping out new streamlined ones. The Business Process Reengineering is complimented by the introduction of a number of e-government services, such as E-health, E-births, amongst others, to eliminate delays and turnaround times in the processing of services.
7. As with any change, awareness is needed to understand the value of the 4IR, and to allay any fears that may come with it. It is, therefore, important to disseminate the necessary information to capacitate the nation to embrace and harness the benefits of the 4IR. This includes ensuring that we have the necessary infrastructure to support it.
8. It also requires that we make appropriate investments to optimize the potential of the adult- and future workforce at all stages of the career path. Those that embrace early, have early benefits to reap. And our youth being the cornerstone of the successes of this Revolution, should be prioritized.
9. Having said the above, I wish to, once again, thank His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob for his vision, and for establishing the 4IR Task Force. This visionary step by His Excellency puts our country on the right path in moving with technological advancements and innovations. Thank you, Your Excellency, for your vision and your presence to champion this great idea.

10. The 4IR Task Force has done a commendable work to-date since its establishment in July 2021. Within 6 months of its existence, it submitted its comprehensive concept note, which was preceded by reviews of various programmes, structured work streams and also proposed preliminary recommendations. The 4IR Task force also organized this Conference and Expo. I, therefore, thank the Task Force members for their dedication and hard work.
11. Finally, I thank all stakeholders who have made it possible for us to start the championing of the 4IR, including through their valuable inputs into this conference deliberations. Your involvement must continue until we fully embrace.
12. As a country, our competitiveness shall be measured by, amongst others, the level of our 4IR readiness and implementation. I, therefore, invite all stakeholders to fully embrace, support and implement the 4IR initiatives.

**I thank you.**