



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA  
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

**KEYNOTE STATEMENT**

**BY**

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

**PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**AT THE OCCASION OF**

**THE ONDANGWA TRADE AND  
INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION FUNDRAISING  
GALA DINNER EVENT**

**15 APRIL 2017**

**ONDANGWA EXHIBITION HALL  
ONDANGWA, OSHANA REGION**

- Director of Ceremonies
- Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers
- Honourable Clemens Kashuupulwa, Governor of the Oshana Region
- His Excellency Paavo Amwele, Mayor of Ondangwa
- Chairpersons and Members of Oshana Regional Council
- Members of the Ondangwa Town Council
- Representatives of our valued Sponsors
- Esteemed invited Guests
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Evening!

It is a great pleasure to be with you this evening and to address this distinguished gathering at the Fundraising Gala Dinner Event that forms part of the Ondangwa Trade and Industrial Exhibition.

The Exhibition and the Fundraising Gala Dinner will enable the Ondangwa Town Council to assist businesses to showcase and market their products and services and to attract more investors to the town of Ondangwa by creating an environment that is conducive for doing business in this town.

Director of proceedings,

Before I proceed with my speech, I want to express my solidarity with the people of the Oshana region, particularly those who have been hit hard by the devastating floods following this year's rainy season, as well as the

efundja floods caused by the massive inflows from the Cuvelai Delta in Southern Angola.

I am informed that the affected people in the Oshana Region, comprising of 120 households or 566 people, have been relocate to the Ekuku centre. The Government will continue to assess and monitor the situation through the disaster risks management regional structures to ensure that the needed assistance is offered to those who need it most.

Director of Ceremonies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Trade and Industrial Exhibition enable corporations, institutions and individuals involved in business to showcase and demonstrate their latest products and services. I thus want to thank the Ondangwa Town Council for organising the fundraising Gala Dinner to raise funds for the hosting of the annual Ondangwa Trade and Industrial Exhibition which, I am informed, will be take place from 28 April to 06 May 2017 for the 7<sup>th</sup> time and will go a long way in promoting business activities, grow the economy and create wealth.

One of the critical challenges facing our country is how to overcome constraints to wealth creation and economic growth. This means that we should address such constraints head on by examining our country's capacity and potential to produce goods and services. Production is the basis for wealth creation and economic growth. Wealth creation and economic growth are in turn the bases for employment creation and poverty eradication. In this regard, it is imperative that as a nation we promote productivity and competitiveness as critical elements in wealth creation and economic growth.

The Government is committed to transforming and diversifying the economy to efficiently deal with employment creation and poverty eradication. Employment opportunities can only be created through business expansion and growth. Government is, thus, pushing for faster development of infrastructure such as transport, logistics, energy and water and to also develop local skills and talent to close the skills gap in our economy in order to achieve the highest levels of efficiency in the public service delivery.

The competitiveness of an economy is not only a result of improved infrastructure and administrative reforms, but it is heavily dependent on the innovativeness of the business community. However, Namibia is a net exporter of capital due to lack of investment opportunities. In order to mitigate this untenable state of affairs, it is critical that the country invest more in education and training to enable us to develop new products and add value to our economy.

I recently visited the Ondangwa Town and I was impressed by the manufacturing capacity and value addition made by some local businesses here, among them, Roama Gate Manufacturing, Henning Stone Crush and Ndilimani Tombstone. Once again, I want to commend the owners of these businesses for bringing closer the idea of making Namibia a manufacturing base economy, as envisioned in our national development plans. I am equally pleased by the rate at which the Ondangwa Town is developing into an economically vibrant urban area offering diverse opportunities to its inhabitants, visitors and prospective investors.

To this end, I want to express Government's commitment to continue to create a conducive and enabling environment for trade activities in different towns of the country to flourish. The political stability and sound macro-economic management implemented over the years has made this possible.

I am informed that ample space has been reserved for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to show case their products. SMEs are the drivers of economic growth and job creation and help alleviate poverty and reduce unemployment. I therefore believe that this is the ideal space needed for SMEs to market and demonstrate their products or services to the people. I further urge the local entrepreneurs to make use of the opportunity created and market their services and products.

The purpose of tonight's gala dinner is to raise sufficient funds to ensure the successful hosting of the Ondangwa Trade and Industrial Exhibition. I appeal to the participants to contribute towards this noble and worthwhile initiative and I wish you success with this fundraising gala dinner.

I thank you.