

**OPENING REMARKS BY AMB. SELMA ASHIPALA-MUSAVYI PERMANENT  
SECRETARY –  
MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 7TH SESSION OF THE NAMIBIA-RUSSIA  
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION  
ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

**WINDHOEK, 15-16 NOVEMBER 2017**

Mr. Alexander Dianov Head of the delegation of the Russian Federation  
Permanent Secretaries Distinguished Ambassadors of the Republic of Namibia  
and the Russian Federation Members of both Namibian and Russian  
Delegations Ladies and Gentlemen of the media Good morning

It gives me pleasure to warmly welcome the Russian delegation to Namibia and  
specifically to this meeting of Senior Officials of the 7th Session of the Namibia-  
Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation.  
This Commission is rooted in the excellent bilateral relations between Namibia  
and Russia.

Our relations not only come a long way, when the Government and people of  
Russia rendered both material and political support to us during Namibia's  
struggle for national liberation and independence, but have continued to grow  
from strength to strength. Bilaterally, and when possible, we have exchanged  
views on political developments at regional and international levels.

Our ministers of international Relations and cooperation and Cooperation and  
Foreign Affairs respectively, have institutionalized political and diplomatic  
consultations on the margins of the General Assembly Sessions of the United  
Nations. On many diplomatic, political and economic issues in the multilateral  
arena, we share similar views. Hence the importance of consultations. So we  
look forward to exchanging views and sharing information on regional and  
global political developments, during our meeting this morning.

Dear Colleagues, for us in Namibia, the Intergovernmental Commission Session  
between our two countries is one of the important events on our bilateral

calendar. We are of the view that the level and depth of our excellent bilateral relations should also reflect the level and depth of our bilateral cooperation and trade. Therefore, the Commission presents our two countries with an ample opportunity to reflect and gauge progress made and seriously concretize and enhance our bilateral cooperation and trade for mutual benefit.

We welcome the fact that the 7th Session of our Inter-Governmental Commission is taking place at a time when there is growing cooperation among Institutions and business communities of our two countries. This has added further momentum and substance to the overall good bilateral relations between our two countries as our bilateral cooperation continues to expand.

To this end, I am particularly pleased to note that progress is being made in the fields of agriculture, education, defence and security as well as in energy and trade. It is encouraging to learn about the exchange of visits that have taken place between our institutions of higher learning and business people in their quest to pursue potential areas of cooperation that had been identified in the previous Sessions of the Commission.

I therefore, wish to commend our respective officials for their efforts and wish to urge both sides to expeditiously work towards full implementation of the Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding signed between our two countries and to implore them to accelerate finalization of all those that are still pending.

As we begin this 7th Session of the Inter-Governmental Commission I am convinced that our deliberations will be geared towards strengthening bilateral cooperation between our two countries.

With these few remarks it is now my honour and privilege to declare the Senior Officials meeting of the 7th Namibia-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation officially open.

I thank you