



**OPENING REMARKS BY HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS AND COOPERATION, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 7TH
SESSION OF THE NAMIBIA-RUSSIA INTER-GOVERNMENTAL
COMMISSION ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

15-16 NOVEMBER 2017

WINDHOEK

Your Excellency Mr. Yuri Trutnev, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation in the Far Eastern Federal District and Co-Chairperson of the Russia-Namibia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation
Honourable Ministers from both Delegations
Distinguished Members of both Delegations
Ladies and Gentlemen
Members of the Media
Comrades and Friends,

Allow me to first of all extend to you and your delegation a warm welcome to the Republic of Namibia. We are indeed delighted and honoured to host this 7th Session of the Namibia-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

The Inter-Governmental Commission between our two countries was principally designed to enhance the bilateral cooperation between Namibia and Russia in sectors such as mining, trade and investment, energy, health, environment and tourism, education and training, science and technology as well as defence and security to mention but a few.

We value the regular holding of the Commission as it provides us with an opportunity to, once again, assess the progress made, consolidate our achievements, address challenges and determine the way forward to enhance our bilateral trade relations.

Co-Chair,

You will recall that during our 6th Session held in Moscow towards the end of last year 2016, we witnessed the signing of an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Geology and Subsoil Management and a Memorandum of Understanding between Epangelo Mining Company and

Joint Stock Company on geological study, mining development and mineral deposits exploration in Namibia. It is gratifying to note that some progress has been made in the field of geology and subsoil management as the two countries have constituted the Joint Working Team that will ensure the implementation of the Agreement in Geology and Subsoil management.

I am further encouraged to note that progress have been made in the education sector since the signing of MoUs and reciprocal visits that have taken place between our respective institutions of higher learning. Today, over 214 Namibians are studying at different universities and other institutions in Russia in the fields of medicine, pharmacy as well as dentistry. Many of the Namibians who completed their studies in Russia are now working in the different sectors of our economy, thus contributing to the development of our country. This cooperation is fundamental for Namibia and should be enhanced.

Furthermore, positive results have also been reported in the private sector as in early October this year, a Russian business delegation from United Wagon Company which manufactures freight cargos, visited Namibia and held talks with local companies. This is the company that is prospecting to setting up a manufacturing and assembly plant in Namibia.

Your Excellency Co-Chair,

I am pleased to also learn that cooperation in the area of veterinary services and phytosanitary surveillance has commenced in earnest between our respective agricultural experts following the submission of information on import requirements for animal and plant products. The Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry has forwarded to their Russian counterparts some samples of animal health certificates as

agreed during our 6th Session in Moscow. These are all positive and welcome developments that emanate from our collective decisions.

However, much more needs to be done to give impetus to our bilateral cooperation. On the political front, our bilateral relations have grown from strength to strength and diplomatic and political consultations have been held regularly on the fringes of major multilateral settings. The last was a meeting I had with Hon. Sergey Lavrov, Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation on the margin of the 72nd General Assembly in September. We need to continue this tradition as it is above all cost effective. This however should not replace the exchange of visits as all levels, including people to people contacts.

I conclude by wishing our delegations fruitful deliberations and I sincerely hope that this 7th Session of the Namibia - Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation will provide the necessary impetus to further develop and consolidate the bonds of friendship and cooperation that so happily exist between Namibia and Russia.

I Thank You – Spasiba Bolshoi