



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

KEY NOTE ADDRESS

BY

**HONOURABLE NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH, DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL
RELATION AND COOPERATION, AT THE COMMEMORATION
OF THE WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

30 July 2019, Windhoek

Director of Ceremony

Hon. Doreen Sioka Minister of Gender Equality and Child Welfare

Hon. Laura McLeod The Governor of Khomas Region

Honourable Members of Parliament

Prosecutor General, Adv. Martha Imalwa

Inspector General, Lt. General Sebastian Ndeitunga

US Ambassador, Ms. Lisa Johnson.

IOM head of office in Windhoek, Mr. Jeremias Mendes

Members of Diplomatic Corps

Members of the UN Family

Senior Government officials

All protocol observed

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

This is the time of the year when we come together to commemorate the world day against trafficking in persons. This year the day is remembered under the **theme “Human Trafficking: Call your Government to action. The theme is domesticated to fit Namibian current situation: “Human Trafficking: Call to Action”**” to highlighting the importance of both Government and all stakeholders’

actions in the interest of assisting victims of trafficking and creating public awareness. The call to action is not only to Governments, but everyone should take action to prevent this heinous crime.

The commemoration of World Day against Trafficking in Persons is an important day for all human rights defenders to show their solidarity with the victims of human trafficking globally and to stress that there is a need to totally fight against this phenomenon happening in our societies.

In 2010, the General Assembly adopted the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, urging Governments worldwide to take coordinated and consistent measures to defeat Trafficking in Persons. In 2013, the General Assembly held a high-level meeting to appraise the Global Plan of Action. Member States including Namibia adopted resolution A/RES/68/192 and designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons starting in 2014.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Namibia for the first time launched the commemoration of the World Day against TiP in July 2016, and we continue to commemorate World Day Against Trafficking in Person every year in all fourteen Regions.

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to state that the government strongly condemns the spate of trafficking in persons both women and men, boys and girls. That is why Namibia is part to several human rights instruments such as the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1992), UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000), ILO Convention on All Worst Forms of Child Labour (2000), AU Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003), and SADC Protocol on Gender and Development (2008).

Namibia has enacted a law on Trafficking in Person, Act no 1 of 2018. We are now busy finalising the regulations for the law to become operational. Although the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act still yet not in force, trafficking in persons is criminalized under the Prevention of Organized Crime Act, Act 29 of 2004. Section 15 of the said Act makes it a crime for anyone to participate or to aid and abet trafficking in persons as contemplated in Annex II of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which is the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

Further, the government through the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare in collaboration with stakeholders has finalized the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The main purpose of the Standard Operating Procedures is for the Identification, Protection and Referral of Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) or Potential VoTs, at the appropriate time and manner.

Capacity building for key services providers on Trafficking in Persons was conducted, to date about 1057 people were trained. These include: social workers, chief community liaison officers, traditional leaders, police officers, customs and excise officers, labour inspectors, teachers, learners and out of school youth. These trainings were financially and technically supported by USA Embassy, UNICEF, UNODC and SADC Secretariat and was facilitated by the MGECW and we are grateful to all of you.

The MGECW held Media Training on the phenomenon of TIP of which Eighteen (18) Media practitioners were trained. The MGECW and stakeholders in collaboration with IOM held a technical training on the concept of human trafficking, coordination and cooperation and on key provisions of TiP legislations in 2017.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration has introduced a comprehensive training for all new appointed Immigration Officers. Such training puts emphasis on how to identify, handle and

follow line of command to report suspected cases of Human Trafficking. The Namibian Police has also developed training manuals used at the Police Training for the new recruits.

In 2018 The MGECW and stakeholders in collaboration with IOM review existing TIP material and developed a media awareness campaign focusing on the youth. The campaign was launched on 29 March 2019 and is ongoing. MGECW review and develop the GBV Plan of Action 2019-2023. Action area one of the Plan include Trafficking in Person as one of the priorities.

With regard to provision of services and care for victims of human trafficking, services are available for all victims of crimes including victims of trafficking in persons irrespective of their nationalities. Such services are: medical care, psycho social support, legal assistance and shelter. Under the project «Strengthening Coordination to Respond to Trafficking in Persons and Ensure Justice and Protection for All Victims of Trafficking in Namibia. It is important to note that three shelters were upgraded to accommodate victims of trafficking. We thank the US government for funding the upgrading.

In the area of data collection and prosecution, Namibia is part of SADC initiative on Regional database for human trafficking cases. Through this initiative SADC member states have an opportunity to share information on human trafficking cases.

Ladies and Gentlemen

For effective coordination to fight trafficking in persons in Namibia, a National Committee has been established chaired by myself and comprised of the following Ministries and Offices: Home Affairs and Immigration, Justice, Finance, Safety and Security, Gender Equality and Child Welfare, Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation, Health and Social Services, Works and Transport, Fisheries and Marine Resources, Offices of the Attorney General and Prosecutor General.

The Committee work with relevant stakeholders on matters pertaining to Trafficking in Persons in the country. The National Committee is assisted by the Technical committee on TIP consisting of Permanent Secretaries of the above OMAS, including the other players such as NGO/Civil Society, Churches and Academia.

Ladies and Gentlemen

In view of the foregoing, Namibia remain committed to combating Trafficking in Persons. The Government, we will continue building capacity of key service providers and increase efforts to raise public awareness, especially in rural areas, on the subject matter.

However, I would like to reiterate that both Government and all stakeholders should take unwavered actions towards protection of victims

or potential victims of trafficking and create public awareness in all corners of our country on Trafficking in persons special attention should be given to the youth, due to the fact that they are the most vulnerable and targeted by the traffickers. We must all unity in fight against trafficking in persons in Namibia and beyond. Let us make every day as a day to combat trafficking in persons.

I thank you