

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**OPENING REMARKS BY HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 8TH SESSION OF THE NAMIBIA-RUSSIA
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON TRADE AND
ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

WINDHOEK, 22-23 MAY 2019

**Your Excellency Mr. Yuri Trutnev, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and Presidential Plenipotentiary Envoy to 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;
Members of the Media
Comrades and Friends;
Ladies and Gentlemen**

***Dobroye utra!* Good morning**

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Namibian Delegation, it is a great pleasure for me to welcome you and your delegation back to Namibia and to Windhoek in particular. This is truly a testimony of the strong bond of friendship that exist between our two countries.

Let me also take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to you Co - Chair, for having brought with you a substantive and diverse business delegation.

Your Excellency,

Namibia and Russia remain special friends and our friendship needs to be nourished and maintained, not only at a political level, but through platforms such as the Namibia-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Today marks the 8th Session of our Economic Cooperation which will create opportunities for us to monitor and evaluate the status of our cooperation through the implementation of the various bilateral undertakings between our two sisterly countries. At the same time, it accord us an opportunity to explore new opportunities, all with the aim of enhancing our bilateral and economic cooperation for mutual benefit.

Co-Chair,

I am happy to note that we have made significant achievements in our bilateral relations and cooperation .

On the Political and Diplomatic side, I recall with pleasure the visit of my Russian counterpart to Windhoek last year and the fruitful Political and Diplomatic exchanges we had to further consolidate our cooperation

particularly at the Multilateral fora. In this regard, Namibia looks forward to the Russia-Africa Summit in October 2019 in Russia.

Excellency, with regard to Bilateral Cooperation, may I take this opportunity to express the Namibian Government's appreciation for the continued assistance in the area of higher education in support of our Government's efforts in alleviating poverty through education and capacity building.

It is my fervent hope that the business delegation accompanying you, will be able to partner with our business people in finding joint ventures including Small and Medium Enterprises.

Thus, I wish to seize this opportunity to call upon the business communities of Russia and Namibia to engage with each other with the view to establish smart partnerships. I am encouraged that cooperation between our agricultural experts in the area of Veterinary Services and Phytosanitary Surveillance has commenced and that there are ongoing negotiations to import and export products to our two countries.

Your Excellency,

While there are still a number of outstanding agreements, and in this context I urged all our officials to speed up their work in order to finalise them, I am pleased to announce that, after the 7th Session, our two governments have signed the following Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding and Treaties:

- Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Education between the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN) and International University of Management (August 17, 2018)
- Treaty between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Namibia on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (October 8, 2018);
- Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Namibia (October 8, 2018) and
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Penitentiary Service of the Russian Federation (FSIN of Russia) and the Namibian Correctional Service (NCS) on Cooperation in the Field of Corrections (February 19, 2019)

I call upon all officials to work diligently to review the status of implementation of these agreements as they are

instruments that will allow us to exchange information and share experiences for the mutual benefit of our people.

I am pleased to note that a number of new areas of cooperation have been agreed upon in the sectors of aviation, fertilizers, value addition in the mining sector, energy, education and education infrastructure as well as cultural exchanges. Given our strategic geographical location, Namibia has decided to establish itself as a logistical hub. In this context, I welcome enhanced cooperation in the area of transport infrastructure as it would also benefit our two coastal states.

Mr. Co-Chair,

It is my sincere hope that our ensuing deliberations will identify new areas of cooperation particularly in IT technologies and tourism so that we can address our common challenges and take advantage of shared opportunities.

Let me conclude by once again, warmly welcoming you and your delegation to Namibia and to express the hope that your stay in our country will be enjoyable and memorable.

With these few remarks, I now declare the 8th Session of the Namibia-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between our two countries open.

I Thank You – *Spasiba balshoi*