

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**STATEMENT BY**

**H.E. FRIEDA NANGULA ITHETE, AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC**

**OF NAMIBIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF PORTUGAL,**

**AT THE**

**BUSINESS FORUM CO-ORGANISED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF**

**PORTUGUESE ENTREPRENEURS (AEP) AND THE HONORARY**

**CONSULATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA IN PORTO, PORTUGAL**

**06 JULY 2016**

**PORTO**

**Director of Ceremonies**

**Members of the Association of Portuguese Entrepreneurs**

**Distinguished captains of industry**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Afternoon. Let me at the outset to sincerely thank the Association of Portuguese Entrepreneurs (AEP) and our Honorary Consulate for organising this important meeting. In the same vein, let me also take this

opportunity to thank all of you for finding time out of your busy schedules, to be here with us this afternoon.

Before I make my brief remarks, I would like to introduce the members of my delegation. I am accompanied by Ms. Bernadette Artivor, Executive Director of Namibia Investment Centre and Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SMEs Development, Mr. Jakova Katuamba, Chief Trade Promotion Executive from the Namibia Investment Centre, which is the investment promotion Agency of the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development of our country. I am also accompanied by Mr. Tarah Shaanika, the Chief Executive Officer of the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ms. Maureen Posthuma, Director for Europe of Namibia Tourism Board; as well as Ms. Zaskia McNab, Second Secretary, and Mr. Mohamed Saleh, Trade Promotion Officer at the Embassy of Namibia.

It is an honour and privilege for us to be accorded this opportunity to interact and share with you about the investment and business opportunities that Namibia offers which have the potential to enhance trade and economic cooperation between our two countries.

This is not my first meeting in Porto with some of you. In 2012, thanks

to the Association of Portuguese Entrepreneurs (AEP) and to the Association of Portuguese Young Entrepreneurs (ANJE) I had an opportunity to interact with you and managed to convince some of you to go to Namibia. I still recall as if it was yesterday, under AEP a successful business mission was undertaken to Namibia in 2013. The mission allowed some of the companies from this region to have fruitful encounters with the Namibian captains of industry. This is why, I am here today with a high powered delegation, as I believe that there is still a lot of potential for economic cooperation and exchange. I sincerely trust that our collaboration with the AEP will continue for many years to come.

I believe that the excellent bilateral relations that so happily exist between Namibia and Portugal would be greatly enhanced and further consolidated when you, the business community, the engine of economic growth, play an active role in boosting these relations. Indeed, the warm friendship I feel in this room and the fact that so many of you are here this afternoon to listen to our presentation prompt me to say that you are clearly ready to take up this challenge and/or pursue what has been started already. I sincerely hope that our engagement today would encourage more interaction between the Portuguese business people and their Namibian counterparts.

Let me emphasize that Portugal is one of the countries that has developed a sustainable political and economic relationship with Namibia. During the last twenty-six years of our life as an independent Nation, our two countries entered into a number of bilateral agreements to promote cooperation and people-to-people contacts. It is thus important that Namibia and Portugal continue to build on that solid foundation of their partnership, through increased trade, investments and economic activities.

We are delighted to see that several Portuguese companies are already playing an important role in the promotion of economic relations between our two countries and contribute in job creations and transfer of the much needed technology and expertise.

However, we would like to encourage the Portuguese investors to expand their scope of investments in various sectors of our economy, particularly in the areas of infrastructure development, agriculture and water, mining, renewable energy, transport, logistics, information and communication technology, as well as tourism.

I can tell you that there are excellent opportunities for investment across all these sectors. Portuguese companies both public and private, can take advantage of their advanced technology and greater industrial and

manufacturing experience to invest in all these sectors of our economy. My colleagues from the Namibia Investment Centre will provide you with more detailed information on specific investment opportunities which are currently being promoted by our Government to attract foreign investments.

I would like to assure the Portuguese companies that Namibia is a country that does not only enjoy peace and political stability, we have also put in place a business friendly and stable investment environment.

I want to conclude my remarks by inviting you all to the Investment Conference which is being organized by the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development of Namibia scheduled to take place in Windhoek from 8th to 9th November 2016. I have brought with me invitation letters which will be circulated to you in this Hall. Please feel free to contact the Embassy if you require further information about this Conference.

One more thing, I know it is now summer time in Europe and some of you may be looking for where to spend your summer holidays with your families. I will fail in my duty if I conclude my remarks without inviting you all to spend your summer holidays in Namibia. Tourism is one of the priority areas of Namibia's economic development objectives and has been the fast growing industry with the potential to become one of the

largest contributor to our GDP and important job creator. My Colleague here from Namibia Tourism Board will reveal to you the secrets of Namibian Tourism. Come and experience the wonders and marvels of our natural scenery, rich cultural heritage, the beauty of our landscape and rock arts, the world`s highest sand dunes and abundance of wildlife. But there is something that will surprise you even more- the warmth, friendliness and hospitality of the people of Namibia. In short, Namibia has all what it takes to make your visit a rewarding and memorable experience.

For your comfort and travelling in style, our national carrier Air Namibia offers direct flights from Frankfurt Airport (Germany) to our capital City Windhoek. Why do you have to look elsewhere for your summer holiday, if not Namibia.

Having said that, it is now my pleasure to invite Ms. Bernadette Artivor and Mr. Jakova Katuamba to make their presentation, followed by Mr Tarah Shaanika and Ms. Maureen Posthuma.

I Thank You, O Brigada

