



STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE NAMIBIAN DELEGATION OF NATIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION AT THE OCCASION OF THE NAMIBIA-GERMAN GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS, 21 TO 22 NOVEMBER 2013, SWAKOPMUND, NAMIBIA

Mr. Alois Schneder, Head of Division for Southern Africa, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in Bonn and Head of the German Delegation

Your Excellency, Mr. Onno Hückmann, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Namibia

H.E Mr. Neville Gertze, Ambassador of the Republic of Namibia to Germany

Distinguished members of the German delegation, from the German Embassy in Namibia, BMZ, GIZ, KFW and BGR.

Permanent Secretaries and colleagues from various Line Ministries

Marcus Theobald EU Delegation

Representatives from Parastatals

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Namibia and its delegation to these bilateral negotiations, I wish to extend a warm welcome to the German delegation, to Namibia and in particular the beautiful town of Swakopmund.

The Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Namibia have long and tested history of cooperation in many areas of development. I am happy to mention that Germany is still a major Bilateral Development Cooperating partner to Namibia despite our countries reclassification as an upper middle income

country, which has led to others withdrawing, reducing or changing the mode of cooperation with the country.

In order to ensure continuous implementation of programmes and projects agreed upon at Government to Government Negotiations, we normally have consultations which are held every second year. The last consultations which were supposed to take place in 2012 were held in Namibia in February 2013. The Government to Government Negotiations we are hosting for these two days aims to mobilize enough development support for the projects and programmes that will contribute positively to the realization of achieving Vision 2030 through National Development Plans.

Namibia/German Bilateral cooperation is focused on supporting the efforts of the Namibian Government in the areas of; **a) poverty Reduction; b) Improve access to Land; c) Sustainable use of Natural Resources and Fostering Economic Development.** Notable support also continues to be extended by the Federal Republic of Germany in the areas of Energy, Climate and Environmental Management.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Government of the Republic of Namibia is committed to stimulate and sustain economic growth in order to among others create employment, reduce poverty and reduce income inequality as stipulated in our Fourth National Development Plan (NDP4) and ultimately reach the goal of improving the living standards of her people to the level of a developed country by 2030. The economic and social challenges that Namibia is faced with, calls for the re-engineering of strategies and support from valuable development partners in general and Germany in particular. To this end we appreciate among others the positive results and progress attained by the NGSIP, Ohorongo cement factory, Multisectoral HIV/AIDS, Micro Finance Bank (FIDES Bank Namibia) and the engineering faculties both at the University of Namibia and the Polytechnic of Namibia. These achievements recorded thus far are a remarkable contribution to both poverty reduction and employment creation which we appreciate.

Your Excellency, allow me at this juncture to extend through you and the German delegation to this negotiations Namibia's gratitude for the valuable development support that we have

received and continue to receive from your country and government.

We express our gratitude to his Excellency Mr. Neville Gertze and his team for sterling job that they are doing in the Federal Republic of Germany, and equally I would like to thank the German Government for using his office as a channel for development.

Finally let me also thank the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for the warm and cordial bilateral relationship that continues to move from strength to strength.

In conclusion, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the significant support from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as for the solid and cordial relationship that continues to thrive between our two countries.

I declare this negotiations open.

I thank you!