

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY NANGOLO MBUMBA
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS BREAKFAST WITH THE
BERLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

9 OCTOBER 2024

BERLIN

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

**Director of Proceedings, Mr. David Renke;
Hon. Ministers from Germany and Namibia;
Members of German Parliament
Mr. Sebastian Stietzel, President of the Berlin Chamber
of Commerce and Industry;
His Excellency Martin Andjaba, Ambassador of the
Republic of Namibia in Germany;
Your Excellencies Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Captains of Industry from Germany and Namibia;
Esteemed members of the Business Community;
Distinguished invited guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen**

**1. It is my great honour to address this distinguished
gathering of eminent captains of commerce and
industry.**

**2. Allow me to express heartfelt thanks to the German
Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Berlin
Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Namibian
Embassy in Berlin for having organised this special
event.**

3. Namibia and Germany have longstanding historic linkages, which form the backbone of a special relationship that is multi-faceted and close, characterized by cooperation at the government, business and non-governmental level.

4. As a developing nation with ambitions for socio-economic advancement, we believe that Namibia cannot grow in isolation. That is why we place great emphasis on partnering with our international friends such as Germany to help bolster our developmental aspirations. We are therefore pleased to be in Germany, not only to partake in the Hamburg Sustainability Conference but to be here in Berlin to bolster our bilateral relations with Germany.

5. Following the cordial and broad discussions I held with Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Hamburg on Monday and with President Frank-Walter Steinmeier yesterday here in Berlin, I am convinced that Germany and Namibia are poised to strengthen bilateral cooperation to even greater levels.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. In our quest to become a prosperous and industrialized nation, it is pertinent that we

continuously promote trade and investment in the pursuit for increased economic growth and sustainable development.

7. While we have several successful core sectors such as mining, fishing and agriculture, we desire to expand our economy by diversifying industrial growth to other sectors such as agro-processing and manufacturing with a strong emphasis on value-addition.

8. Furthermore, Namibia intends to position itself as a logistical-hub within the Southern African Development Community (SADC). To achieve this, we are focused on upgrading existing and developing new port, rail, road and air infrastructure in order to establish Namibia as a gateway to the SADC Region and the African continent at large.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. Namibia holds ambitions to position itself globally as the primary producer of green hydrogen due to its immense renewable energy potential. Our country is endowed with natural wind and sun resources, and it is well on its way to become a competitive producer and exporter of green hydrogen. At present, we are collaborating with Germany in this new and exciting

sector to develop a robust hydrogen industry and green value chains. We therefore invite interested investors to explore opportunities in green hydrogen and its derivative, green-ammonia and fertilizer production in Namibia.

10. We are aware that a sector such as green-hydrogen requires a workforce with specialized skills. To this extent, we are collaborating with Germany in the area of skills development. At present, over one hundred students have received scholarships to pursue studies in fields related to the green hydrogen sector.

11. From a policy perspective, we are placing great emphasis on accelerating Namibia's socio-economic transformation and bringing about shared prosperity. We aspire to transform Namibia into a knowledge-based economy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

12. At this juncture, let me express our sincere appreciation to those German business people and companies that are already doing business in Namibia, where their investments have created jobs and transferred valuable technology and expertise to our workforce. I am aware that several of them are

present here today. We encourage more German business people and companies to come to Namibia.

13. We are ready to welcome you and we are open for business. We have a lot to offer as an investment destination. We respect the rule of law and we have a stable macroeconomic environment. Come and make Namibia your home away from home.

14. I look forward to a further interesting and engaging exchange with you.

I thank you.