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QUALITY AWARDS 1/2

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSI LAUNCHES QUALITY AWARD PROGRAMME

The Namibian Standards Institution officially launched the National Quality Week and the National Quality Awards Programme for Namibian producers, manufacturers and organisations today in Windhoek. The aim of these endeavours is to create an awareness and appreciation for quality products and services amongst individuals and organisations in the country.

The National Quality Award Programme already exist in many countries around the world and aims to recognise, encourage, honour and award individuals, industries and enterprises (including the service sector) who deliver products and services of excellent quality. The NSI further decided to declare a National Quality Week to raise awareness of and to promote, develop and inculcate a quality culture amongst Namibians.

The Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Honourable Tjekero Tweya, officially launched the programmes and announced that: "...the full working week, inclusive of October 14, which is the World Standards Day, each year, will be observed as the National Quality Week for Namibia. Each Thursday of the National Quality Week will be a quality day during which the winners of the quality awards in different quality awards categories will be honoured."

He continued to say that it is the expectation of the Namibian government, that with the launch of the awards programme, local products and services will be improved in terms of value, quality and competitiveness and will henceforth access new world markets with relative ease.

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Namibian Standards Council (NSC) members

Dr. Martha Kandawa-Schulz, Chairperson | Mr Edwin Beukes, Member | Mr Michael Gaweseb, Member | Mr Edward T Kamboua, Member
Mrs Asteria Nasheya, Member | Dr. Moses Maurihungirire, Member | Mr Shikondjeleni T Nashixwa, Member | Mrs Phortune Tjivikua, Member
Mr Riundja Ali Kaakunga (Othy), CEO (Member, Ex-Officio) | Adv. Notemba Tjipueja, Legal Advisor and Company Secretary

Established by Section 2 of the Standards Act, 2005 (Act No. 18 of 2005)



The CEO of the NSI, Riundja A. Kaakunga (Othy), noted that since the completion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations in 1995, the government of the republic of Namibia adopted its National Quality Policy document by a cabinet decision on 1 June 1999. The NQP is therefore an official government policy document highlighting the strategic intent of Namibia on quality, quality assurance as well as on the overall development, enhancement and improvement of all quality infrastructures nationwide. He emphasised that the Minister of Trade and Industry mandated the NSI to manage and coordinate the NQP implementation, of which the Quality Week and Quality Awards Programme are but two activities.

“In August 2008, the NSI in consultation with various stakeholders, including public and private sector, developed and adopted an action plan for the implementation of the NQP. Amongst the many action items lined in the implementation action plan is the declaration of the National Quality Week as well as the establishment and operationalization of the National Quality Award Programme,” he said.

End.

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