

**Collaboration with Standards Association of Zimbabwe (SAZ):  
Remarks by R A Kaakunga (Othy), CEO, Namibian Standards  
Institution (NSI), at the occasion of the signing ceremony of the  
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SAZ and the  
NSI in the Area of Standardization and Conformity Assessment  
and Training, in Harare, Zimbabwe on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2012.**

It is a great honour and pleasure for the NSI to be present here in Harare to participate in this process leading to the execution of this MoU, between the NSI and SAZ, which bodies have a long standing relationship of technical cooperation dating back to the inception of the NSI.

It is worthy to note that our two countries Namibia and Zimbabwe have already established excellent relationship of cooperation in the area of trade relations and in this regard signed a Trade Agreement in 2007.

This Trade Agreement between The Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Government of the Republic of Namibia seeks to recognize that the trade between the two countries should be as free and uninterrupted as possible and are desirous of continuing and improving the existing trade relations between them on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

The Agreement between our two countries ensures that goods grown, produced or manufactured in the territory of either Contracting Party may be imported in to the territory of the other Contracting Party free of customs duty.

The following categories of goods shall be considered as grown or produced in the territory of the Contracting Party:

1. Mineral products extracted from its soil;
2. Vegetable products harvested or gathered therein;
3. Live animals born and raised therein;
4. Products obtained therein from live animals;
5. Forest products harvested therein;
6. Fish and other marine products harvested therein or from its marine economic zone; and
7. Products obtained therein exclusively from products specified in 1. and 6 above.

It is therefore in the spirit of the already existing trade relations between the two nations that the NSI seeks to solidify its cooperation with the SAZ in the areas of standardization, conformity assessment and training and thereby ensure quality assurance to commodities traded between Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Furthermore the NSI and SAZ seek to contribute to trade, and to ensure quality and safety of imported and exported commodities, to ensure the protection of the consumer and the environment in keeping with the rules and regulations applicable in both countries.

Moreover, technical cooperation in this area of standards development, quality assurance and conformity assessment will contribute to the implementation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Trade, as amended, as it will eliminate any technical barriers to trade (TBT), leading towards the fostering of a deepened regional integration.

This MOU does also envisage the exchange of technical expertise and the pursuit of joint training programs, and as the NSI is a relatively new institution with limited technical resources it will certainly be most appreciative, to benefit from any technical expertise and experience SAZ may offer to the NSI in this regard.

As our two countries are already cooperating in the area of trade the NSI believes that this important MOU between SAZ and NSI will certainly complement the existing trade arrangement and will specifically facilitate trade by making tests conducted by either country's National Standards Body acceptable to the other.

Thus, promoting the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)'s adage of products "tested once, accepted everywhere".

The NSI and SAZ both have a common interest in contributing to the socio-economic development of their respective countries through the promotion of trade and industry and do also enhance the standard of life of their communities through the assurance of the quality of products traded between the two countries.

It is against this background that I call upon large and established industries, on the one hand, and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) on the other hand in both Zimbabwe and Namibia to maximize the benefit and advantages they can gain from the continued cooperation between Zimbabwe and Namibia in trade relations, and NSI and SAZ in the different fields of standardisation and conformity assessment.

In conclusion NSI is confident that this MOU will only enhance the already mutually beneficial and cordial relationship existing between the two institutions.

I Thank You.