



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

HON. NATANGUE ITHETE, MP

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES, MINES
AND ENERGY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF NATIONAL QUALITY AWARD CEREMENONY
WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL STANDARDISATION
STRATEGY AND THE WORLD STANDARDS DAY CELEBRATION.**

14 OCTOBER 2025

WINDHOEK

**Check Against Delivery*

Director of Ceremonies;

Honourable Gaudentia Krohne, Deputy Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy;

Mr. Moses Pakote, Executive Director of the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy;

Mr. Paul Kalenga, Chairperson of Namibian Standards Council and Members of the Namibian Standards Council;

Dr. Eino Mvula, CEO of the Namibian Standards Institution and your Team;

Senior representatives of the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy and other government officials;

Members of the NSI's Technical Committees;

Esteemed Sponsors of both the National Quality Awards and the National standardisation strategy;

Distinguished participants of the 2025 National Quality Awards and the Judges of the Awards;

Esteemed Captains of Industry;

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Members of the media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good Evening,

1. It's a great honour and a true privilege to deliver the keynote address at this highly esteemed national event marking the launch of Namibia's first National Standardization Strategy and Plan, the National Quality Awards Ceremony on this day of the celebration of the World Standards Day.
2. I am filled with immense joy to see so many stakeholders present at this event as it bears testimony to the importance that you attach on the value that National Quality Infrastructure creates in the economy in particular the work of the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy and all its Agencies including the NSI.

Director of Ceremonies;

3. On 21 July 2025, Her Excellency, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, launched the 6th National Development Plan (NDP6), under the theme "*Fostering Economic Growth, Inclusiveness and Resilience for Quality Sustainable Development*".
4. The NDP6 is built on four pillars: Economic Growth, Transformation and Resilience; Human Development and Community Resilience; Environmental Sustainability; and Good Governance and Effective Public Service Delivery.

5. Under the first Pillar: “*Economic Growth, Transformation and Resilience*”, we aim for sustainable economic growth with targets including a minimum of 7% GDP growth, raising employment from 63% to 75%, increasing the secondary industry's contribution to GDP and increasing share of manufactured export products to 60 percent of total export.
6. We will accomplish these targets through key focus areas such as Agriculture Value Chains, Agro-processing, and Manufacturing; Mining; and International Relations and Trade.
7. The realisation of the goals under the first Pillar and indeed those of other pillars of NDP6 requires a greater emphasis on better regulation, market operation and trade as an enabler for development, regional and global integration under regional and multilateral trading arrangements to which Namibia is a member including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
8. All of this means that Namibia’s National Quality Infrastructure and its technical regulation systems must demonstrably meet international good practices and be accepted by its main trading partners.
9. In guiding the development of the National Quality Infrastructure in line with international best practice, Namibia has developed and adopted a Revised National Quality Policy (NQP) 2020 to 2025, which was approved by Cabinet in 2020 and officially launched in April 2021.

10. The implementation of the Revised National Quality Policy involves numerous broad-based activities amongst others:

- a) *The Develop the National Standardization Strategy (NSS) as per ISO methodology;*
- b) *the review of NQP related legislation including The Metrology (SI System and National Measurement Standards and Legal Metrology (Weights and Measures) Act.*

11. Following the review of the Metrology Legislation as one of the broad-based activities under the Revised National Quality Policy, a new Metrology Act, 2022 (Act No 5 of 2022) was promulgated on 20 October 2022.

12. I am pleased to inform you today, that after satisfying myself with the pre-commencement activities which included successfully awareness campaign, covering all 14 regions, I, in terms of Section 55(1) of the Metrology Act, 2022 (Act No. 5 of 2022), have determined that the Act comes into operation on the date of publication of the commencement notice in the Gazette, which date was 15 September 2025.

Director of Ceremonies;

13. Today we are witnessing the launch Namibia's first ever National Standardisation Strategy and Plan (NSSP), another output of the broad-based activity under the Revised National Quality Policy.

14. The National Standardisation Strategy and Plan is a need-based guideline document that identifies key priority sectors for standardization based on assessment of socio-economic data, future needs and stakeholders' consultation.
15. It is not by accident that the sectors identified in the National Standardisation Strategy and Plan were from national plans, services, manufacturing, mining and quarrying and agriculture, and fisheries and forestry, which resonate with the NDP6 focus areas.
16. National Standardisation Strategy and Plan would serve as a key guiding tool in ensuring standardization in the key priority areas of the national economy, targeting the development of over 900 priority standards over the next three years, which will result in increase in the number of published Namibian Standards from the current the stock of standards from 275 to 1267.

Director of Ceremonies;

17. In the effort to encouraging public and private entities, to apply and comply with international standards in their day-to-day operations, the NSI has reactivate the National Quality Awards Competition.
18. This initiative is aligned to the SADC Quality Awards aimed at recognising and appreciating organisations and individuals who are contributing to quality advancement in all sectors of SADC, by having measurement and quality systems, procedures and processes that are in line with local, regional and international practices and who use

quality advancement to support national and regional economic development and growth.

19. Furthermore, it resonates with the Africa Quality Policy as adopted by African Union through the Specialized Technical Committee for Trade, Industry and Minerals in 2021, whose focus amongst others is to encourage Member States and RECs to create national institutes of quality and national/sub regional quality awards to promote the quality culture.
20. Such an undertaking will not only go a long way to improving the competitiveness of our products and services in the international market but will also serve as a tool for securing new market opportunities and destinations for such products and services while safeguarding health and safety of end-users, environmental protection.
21. I am informed that the winners in the various categories will serve as Namibia's ambassadors at the upcoming SADC Quality Awards in Lusaka, Zambia, I would therefore like encourage more companies to prepare for future participation.

Director of Ceremonies;

22. There is no other perfect timing for the launch of Namibia's first National Standardization Strategy and Plan and the National Quality Awards Ceremony other than on the World Standards Day which is commemorated today, on 14 October annually. This year the World Standards Day is commemorated under the theme "*A Shared Vision for*

a Better World", aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a special focus on Goal 9 - industry, innovation and infrastructure.

23. This year, World Standards Day explore how standards provide a shared framework that enables meaningful collaboration across industries, governments, and organizations to achieve common objectives. Standards foster global collaboration, ensuring interoperability, fostering trust, and accelerating multi-stakeholder cooperation to drive sustainable development.

Director of Ceremonies;

24. The achievement being celebrated today signifies our commitment to ensure implementation of pivotal elements of the Revised National Quality Policy to fulfil the aims and tangible outputs expected of the Revised National Quality Policy.
25. I therefore call on all key players to collectively put their efforts towards the implementation of the broad-based activities in pursuit of the policy objectives under the Revised National Quality Policy, this include:
- a) many of you experts who volunteering to participate in the work of Technical Committee for the development of standards, ensuring that these technical solutions are available to Industry; and,
 - b) OMAs; private sector players as well as development cooperation partners.

26. As I conclude, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to reiterate Government's unyielding commitment towards the attainment of our national development goals as articulated in the SWAPO Party Manifesto and the 6th National Development Plan (NDP 6).

27. With these few remarks, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great excitement and high expectations that I now launch and present the National Standardization Strategy and Plan.

Thank you.