



STATEMENT

BY

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE NAMIBIAN STANDARDS
INSTITUTION**

**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

Director of Ceremonies;

Honourable Natangue Ithete, MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy,

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;

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 for the National Quality Awards and the National standardisation strategy;

Distinguished NSS Task Force Members

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

Esteemed Captains of Industry;

The NSI Team;

Distinguished Invited Guests;

Members of the media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good evening,

1. About 17 months ago, to be exact on 20 May 2024, we gathered in this venue for the launch the NSI integrated Strategic Business Plan (ISBP) for the period 2024/2025 to 2028/2029. The NSI ISBP is aligned to the 6th National Development Plan and the Revised National Quality Policy for the period 2020 to 2025.
2. I am pleased to inform you that we have been hard at work religiously implementing our ISBP with tangible results. One of the key deliverable is the commence of the Metrology Act, 2022 (Act No 5 of 2022). We wish to convey our sincere thanks to Hon. Ithete through your Hon.Krohne for the Commencement of Metrology Act, 2022 as from 15 September 2025, making Namibia a leader in implementation of a modern metrology law in the SADC region with the expanded coverage to public health and safety.
3. Today we are here to witness yet another milestone- a deliverable from our ISBP namely the launch of Namibia's first National Standardization Strategy and Plan as well as the National Quality Awards Ceremony
4. Truly, we do what we say!!

World Standards Day

5. As we celebrate the World Standards Day, we appreciate the crucial role of standards in our daily lives in ensuring safety, compatibility, efficiency,

and ease of use across a myriad of devices and systems and facilitate trade.

6. Imagine a situation where every electronic device has unique connectors and protocols. For instance, if Shatona's computer used a custom keyboard, trying to connect different devices like smartphones or computers could be difficult. This lack of standardization could hinder innovation and create communication barriers.
7. Namibia must follow the rules outlined in several trade agreements, including the WTO TBT agreement and various regional and international trade agreements like AfCFTA and the SADC Protocol on Trade, as part of its commitment as a member state.
8. The TBT Agreement distinguishes between three types of measures: technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures and are premised on the principles: non-discrimination, avoidance of unnecessary barriers to trade and the use of international standards.
9. Over time, the rules for international trade conformity assessments have become stricter. This means that member states must make significant efforts to actively participate and play important roles in these markets.
10. Trust is essential for international trade. Consumers need to feel confident that the products they buy are safe and of good quality. This trust builds through a network of organizations working together, known as the national quality infrastructure (NQI).

11. The national quality infrastructure (NQI) consists of various public and private organizations, along with the necessary policies, legal frameworks, and practices to ensure the quality, safety, and sustainability of products and services. It includes areas like metrology, standardization, accreditation, conformity assessment, and market surveillance.
12. A strong quality infrastructure is vital for the smooth operation of domestic markets. It also has to be recognized internationally to help access foreign markets. This infrastructure supports economic development and promotes social and environmental well-being.
13. For African nations, collaborating with international standardization organizations like ISO and IEC is important to adopt and contribute to global best practices.

National Standardization Strategy and Plan

14. The National Standardization Strategy and Plan (NSSP) for 2025-2027, launched tonight, was created by the National Standards Institution (NSI) using international best practices from the ISO guide. The process includes establishing a task force, analyzing priority sectors, studying social issues, reviewing development plans, gathering stakeholder feedback, and ranking these inputs to identify necessary new national standards.
15. Since our start in 2008, we have published 275 standards, which is commendable. However, we face challenges compared to other standards bodies. For example, the Bureau of Standards (BOBS) has

issued 1,600 standards since 1995, the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) has 6,500 since 1982, and the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) has 7,500 since 1945. These figures highlight the need to expand our efforts.

16. Today, I am thrilled to share our ambitious National Standardization Strategy, which aims to significantly elevate the standards landscape in Namibia. With our current stock of standards standing at 275, we have set an audacious goal to grow this number to a remarkable 1,267 within the next three years. This equates to an impressive average increase of over 300 new standards each year.
17. The establishment and publication of additional standards is not merely a numbers game; it is a strategic imperative that will foster innovation, drive quality, and enhance competitiveness across various sectors of our economy services, manufacturing, agriculture, fisheries and forestry; mining and quarrying and also national plans priority-including alternative building materials.
18. The NSI's functions include creating and promoting Namibian standards related to various commodities and adhering Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards as set out in Annexure 3 to the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. The process for developing standards involves multiple stages: identifying needs, drafting, consensus among experts in Committee, public inquiry, ratification and then publication.

19. While cognisant of the due process to be followed, we must aim to deliver standards to the market in the shortest time possible. Since the development/ adoption of standards is stakeholder driven, I would like to make use of this opportunity to urge members of the Technical Committees for the development of standards, ensuring that these technical solutions are available to Industry.

20. As already mentioned by the Chairperson your work is highly appreciated and we will honour you with a token of appreciation before we close for the festive season.

National Quality Awards

21. Namibia has held the National Quality Awards from 2012 until 2019, but the initiative was disrupted by Covid-19. We are happy to revive this initiative this year and endeavour to ensure that it is held annually going forward.

22. The main goal of the awards is to acknowledge organizations that focus on customer satisfaction, environmental sustainability, and compliance with regulations. This initiative also promotes the use of local products and services to enhance exports.

23. There are five award categories available for both small and large enterprises, including individual quality and product service awards, along with an exporter of the year award.

24. The National Quality Awards winners automatically becomes Namibia's representatives in SADC Quality Awards.
25. To ensure the success and transparency of the National Quality Awards, NSI has initiated a separate sponsorship call to maintain impartiality in the process.
26. The awards are independent of sponsorship, and the process adheres to set guidelines, including rules for judges to avoid conflicts of interest.
27. Allow me to extend our gratitude to QA Sponsors who made this event possible tonight.
28. As we promote the importance of standardization in different sectors, we must also tackle the specific challenges that organizations face. Implementing standards includes several important steps: Gap Analysis, Training and Documentation, Internal Audit, and Audit and Certification.
29. While standardization is essential for ensuring quality and efficiency as well as remaining competitive in the market, it can be particularly challenging for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
30. For continued support of SMEs, it's crucial to create tailored resources and help to address these difficulties. Alongside our ongoing standards training, we have already trained 197 individuals in agro-processing standards and 15 in cosmetics production across all 14 regions, a project supported by the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy.

31. We are launching the "Nurturing Standards for Innovation" (NSI) initiative, which aims to help SMEs in Namibia by providing guidance on implementing industry standards. This program will offer specialized training, consulting, mentorship, and networking opportunities.

32. We plan to reach out to some of you to partner with us in this new initiative, with the hope of cultivating a larger pool of future award winners.

Conclusion

33. In closing, as we discuss the benefits of implementing standards, we must consider the vital role they play in fostering innovation.

34. Moreover, as we engage in an increasingly global marketplace, standards are essential for ensuring fair trade and competitiveness.

35. Finally, standards are integral to our commitment to safety and sustainability.

36. Together, as we champion the implementation of standards, we pave the way for a brighter, more innovative, and sustainable future for all.

37. I thank you.