



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**THE PRESIDENCY**

**STATEMENT FOR**

**H.E. DR. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**AT THE AGRI-OUTLOOK CONFERENCE**

**WINDHOEK COUNTRY CLUB RESORT**

**08 OCTOBER 2025**

**Director of Ceremonies;**

**Honourable Inge Zaamwani, Minister of Agriculture,  
Fisheries, Water and Land Reform;**

**The presidents of the respective Farmers' Unions;**

**Leaders and members of the Farmers Unions;**

**Agricultural experts;**

**All distinguished guests and stakeholders;**

**Members of the media;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**Allow me at the onset to appreciate the invitation extended to me, by the Farmers Unions to officiate at the Agri-Outlook Conference 2025. This Year's conference is held under the theme; "Harvesting the Future". This theme is forward looking calling upon us to not only envision the future of agriculture but to actively shape it.**

**I applaud all the four unions namely, the Namibia Emerging Commercial Farmers Union (NECFU), Namibia National Farmers Union (NNFU), Previously Disadvantaged National Farmers Union (PDNFU), and the Namibia Agricultural Union (NAU), for their**

**corroboration and for setting up a befitting programme focusing on key thematic areas which are talking to the aspirations of the NDP6 the developmental road map for the 8th Administration.**

**These thematic areas are;**

- Inclusive and Sustainable Transformation Growth in the Livestock Economy;**
- Value Addition and Market Access in the Northern Communal Areas;**
- Capacity Building and Youth: Farmers Mainstreaming;**
- Technology and Innovation in Agriculture, and;**
- Sustainable Agriculture.**

**Director of Ceremonies,**

**Today, agriculture stands at the cusp of great opportunity in Namibia. The 8th Administration has prioritized Agriculture as one of its seven Priority Areas in the sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), as well as, the SWAPO Party Manifesto Implementation Plan (SMIP), both these plans highlight the importance of the agricultural sector and propose tangible interventions to**

**improve production as well as assistance to farmers and secondary producers. This decision was intentional as we recognize that agriculture is directly linked to development. Most of the countries in the world have developed through agricultural transformation and that is what we want to see in Namibia, cognizant of our climatic conditions.**

**It is also not by chance that agriculture also doubles as one of the 8 Critical Economic Enablers. Agriculture is needed for Industrialization, job creation and food security. Our Founding President, His Excellency Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, may his soul rest in peace, taught us that a nation that cannot feed itself cannot be respected.**

**Therefore, we value the input and the enabling ability for Agriculture, not only to feed our nation, grow our economy but also to make us self-reliant as a respected member of the global village. Agriculture is also a source of foreign currency through the export of agricultural products such as beef, grapes, vegetables and other high value commodities.**

**Director of Ceremonies,**

**Earlier this year, I had the privilege to visit the Green Schemes in Zambezi, Kavango East, Kavango West and Omusati Regions. I was greatly encouraged by the potential and opportunity for us to feed the nation from the produce of these green schemes. Yes, many challenges remain and more support is needed for the green schemes to reach full production. However, the optimism in the sector is fueling the potential for the setting up of industries through processing plants.**

**The challenges before us in the agriculture sector such as, climate change, soil degradation, consumer demands, to name a few, define how we grow, distribute, and consume food. In the face of these challenges lie the seeds to transform our agriculture sector.**

**In order to harvest the future, we must reimagine agriculture as a smart, sustainable, and inclusive engine of development by embracing climate-resilient practices, investing in innovation and agri-tech,**

**supporting smallholder farmers, and building value chains that are both equitable and efficient.**

**Director of Ceremonies,**

**I am informed that, the Agri-Outlook Conference brings together farmers from all corners of the country both, communal, emerging and commercial farmers, including supporting organizations and local and international agricultural experts. With the primary goal to share knowledge and plan how to improve Namibian farmers' productivity and profitability to contribute to livelihood, food security and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country.**

**The agricultural sector, is a cornerstone of Namibia's socio-economic development, providing rural income and ensuring food security. While about 70 percent of the Namibian population derives directly their livelihood from the livestock and crop value chains. All people of the world depend on agriculture for their survival. This highlights the importance of attaining adequate basic agricultural inputs for increased production, thereby,**

**improving the sectors' economic competitiveness and further sustaining the entire value chain.**

**As mentioned above the agricultural sector serves as a catalyst for the manufacturing industry and a significant source of foreign earnings. However, the sector over the years have experienced volatility caused by a combination of changing climatic conditions and inadequate investment in the sector.**

**Despite being the largest employer in Namibia, the agricultural workforce is ageing, with signs that the youth are lacking interest in agriculture related jobs. Although the food and nutrition security situation has improved over the past decades, some level of undernourishment persists. It is imperative that a conducive environment has to be created for agriculture through connectivity, creativity and access to finance for the sector to save its purpose.**

**I wish to reiterate that the Government is committed to create an enabling environment for agriculture to thrive and we deeply value initiatives such as engagement**

**within and with all stakeholders on all our priority areas and critical economic enablers.**

**May the discussions held, at the Agri-Outlook Conference 2025 on policy, investments and practice be a catalyst for bold action in securing our future for generations to come.**

**I thank you.**