



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME DEVELOPMENT

MITSMED Pre-Consultative Workshop

Date: 7 & 8 March 2019

Venue: Daan Viljoen, Windhoek

The Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development and all its partner organisations have a crucial role to play in spearheading industrialisation and economic development in the country. To this effect, the Ministry embarked upon a retreat for all management staff to prepare for the year that lies ahead under the recurring theme – **“Growth at Home”**. In attendance at the event were partner organisations, sectoral stakeholders, Board Chairpersons and CEOs of various SOEs under the Ministry and Namibian Commercial Councilors abroad among others. Hon. Tweya reminded the participants of the Ministry’s mandate derived from the Vision 2030 objective of becoming an industrialised nation (*as well as National Development Plans & Harambee Prosperity Plan*) and the urgency to create an enabling environment for growth. The pre-consultative workshop was established to craft a springboard for MITSMED to revise its value to the nation and also achieve a level of team building. He then touched on the unity that exists among members of the human anatomy, this analogy exemplified understanding a common vision and being able to contribute to it as well.

Hon. Tweya further listed a range of internal institutional reforms which SOEs residing under MITSMED needs to put in place to address the daunting challenges of industrialisation. In the same vein, the Minister also called for full support and cooperation of MITSMED management staff as a prerequisite to shepherd initiatives and brilliant ideas that can make positive change in society. He called upon the Ministry staff and SOEs to adhere to public service principles, in ensuring service delivery, be

time conscious and transparent, and anticipate the needs of clientele by integrating personal and institutional values. He concluded his statement by appealing to all stakeholders - management, rank-and-file members, as well as agencies to play their role and deliver services to citizens in an efficient and effective manner. The discussions of the workshop pretty much focused on lofty ideas of Vision 2030, intensify all efforts to concretise Namibia's ambitious goal to become a fully industrialised and knowledge-based society.



[Group photo of participants at the workshop](#)

To realize this aim, the Ministry cannot operate in isolation but has to increasingly work in tandem with other Ministries, Offices and Agencies within Government. The synergies forged between MITSMED, the private sector and development partners need to be strengthened so that new and innovative methods to realize Namibia's objective towards Vision 2030 can be developed. Presentations and work done by MITSMED Commercial Counsellors abroad (Addis Ababa, Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, New Delhi, Luanda, Paris, Pretoria and Washington) sparked beneficial contributions and meaningful debate in facilitating and strengthening private-public dialogue and

cooperation as well as the overarching “**Growth at Home**” strategy and how growth in industrial capacity can be achieved. This segment of discussion shared constraints encountered by Commercial Offices and possible solutions paving way forward.

The Directorate of International Trade reassured participants at the meeting that – Namibia remains committed to regional, continental and multilateral economic integration, trade facilitation processes and arrangements through SACU, SADC, the AU, ACP and the WTO. In all these, there is need to ensure that policy space to implement measures aimed at growing our industrial base and to safeguard industries is not eroded through such regional and multilateral arrangements. MITSMED regional representatives also made remarkable contributions to the workshop, sharing experiences and the need to rededicate efforts in empowering SMEs so that small business can become medium-sized business and more medium-sized business become big businesses. SOEs pledged their support in assisting the Ministry to achieve its goals in carrying assigned responsibilities.

Concluding the workshop, Hon. lipumbu in her closing remarks highlighted the importance of ownership – participants to own valuable content of discussions emanating from the entire workshop. Honourable Deputy Minister thanked all participants for their commitment and dedication in enabling the Ministry to execute its mandate and to implement the philosophy of the Ministry in the ways each member executes individual duties from day to day.

The purpose of the pre-consultative workshop was to provide an update of the state of play and obtain strategic guidance from stakeholders on the mandate of the Ministry - ***The ministry has a clear mandate to spearhead three very important sectors (namely - industrialisation, trade and SME development), which are not only wide in scope but also very critical for the realisation of the national socio-economic development goals of our country.*** The meeting served as a very good platform to reflect on the challenges and opportunities in addressing important areas under the directive of the Ministry.