

VOTE OF THANKS BY

THE SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSION

MR MIHE GAOMAB II

AT THE DISSEMINATION WORKSHOP FOR THE VOLUNTARY PEER REVIEW OF

COMPETITION LAW IN NAMIBIA

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

17 FEBRUARY 2015

Commissioners: Dr. Sakeus Akweenda (Chairperson); Ms. Teresia Kaulihowa, Mr. Gideon Shilongo, Ms. Malverene Theron and Mr. Nghidinua Daniel **EX Officio:** Mr. Heinrich Mihe Gaomab II (Secretary to the Commission)

Honourable Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Tjekero Tweya

UNCTAD represented by the Chief - Capacity Building and Advisory Services, Mr. Juan Luis Crucelegui

The Economic Affairs Officer, Competition and Consumer Policy Branch, Ms Elizabeth Gachuri,

Former Chief Executive Officer of the Zimbabwe Competition Authority and esteemed Peer Review Consultant, Mr. Alexander Kububa

Donor agencies and cooperating partners of the Namibian Competition Commission

All Stakeholders present here today

Members of the Media

Distinguished Guests

On behalf of the Namibian Competition Commission, allow me to express our gratitude indeed to UNCTAD for providing the Commission with this platform to share matters pertaining to its peer review process. The Namibian Competition Commission volunteered and thank UNCTAD for approval for us to be peer reviewed within the five years of its existence after the implementation of its Competition Act 2 of 2003.

As the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Honorable Tjekero Tweya indicated, the NACC volunteered to be peer reviewed by UNCTAD during the 14th Session of the

Intergovernmental Group of Experts (IGE) that was held from 8th to 10th July 2014. The process resulted in a report titled *“Voluntary Peer Review of Competition Law and Policy: Namibia”* wherein it confirmed the progress achieved so far by NACC, but also identified areas that need further improvement.

In broad terms, measures to address these needs for improvement in terms of our work include *(i) financial autonomy and sustainability; (ii) improvement of competition legislation and policies; (iii) a strengthening of the institutional, legal and economics capabilities of the NACC’s staff, by training and exchange programs, as well as participation in major international competition events (iv) an improvement of the NACC’s coordination with sector regulators and especially with public procurement agencies to fight bid-rigging and corruption, and (v) enforcement of anti-competitive practices and merger control, (vi) strengthening markets investigation and sectoral surveillance, and (vii) enhancement of its role in consumer protection by developing relations with private consumer protection associations and NGOs throughout Namibia, creating networks for disseminating best practices and awareness.*

The Commission, being in existence since December 2009, have been administering and implementing the competition law with a staff complement of 32. Our enforcement efforts have grown exponentially since inception, with around 313 mergers determined and over 20 investigations conducted into restrictive business practices.

We have reached milestones in our few years of being operational and that we attribute to hard-work, perseverance, commitment and dedication of the formidable team of professionals at the Commission.

Much of the success of the Commission is embraced in its collaborative efforts with stakeholders, co-operating partners and the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

Allow me to on behalf of the Commission, once more to extent our appreciation to the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Honorable Tjekero Tweya for opening this event on a considered, consistent and undivided attention that he has granted to our mandate over our five year existence. Also thanks is accorded to UNCTAD and its senior officials represented here today namely UNCTAD Chief- Capacity Building and Advisory Services, Mr. Juan Luis Crucelegui and the Economic Affairs Officer, Competition and Consumer Policy Branch, Ms Elizabeth Gachuri. The Commission would not have been here today without your sustained support on advancing economic, technical and legal understanding of our Competition Law and Policy.

Also appreciation goes to Mr Alex Kububa who has earnestly provided the Competition the necessary institutional memory and the intelligence on the report that was the subject matter of this event.

Last but not least, to our Professional Staff namely Ms Bridget Dundee, Technical Advisor to the CEO who has been extremely invaluable in terms of assisting UNCTAD for this report to become an eventuality from the Commission side as well as the Directors of the Commission who officiated at the event. Thanks is also accorded to the Corporate Service Staff of the Commission who assisted greatly with the preparations and organization of this event.

I will like to thank you all for attendance, especially our current and future co-operating partners, for the willingness to join forces with the Commission, in enhancing the enforcement of competition law in Namibia.

The Commission is committed to ensure that the findings of the peer review is utilized in a fashion that reinforces the effectiveness of competition law enforcement in Namibia, through tailor-made technical co-operative assistance activities.

I thank you!