



6th Annual Stakeholders Gala Dinner

Keynote Address

By

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The Permanent Secretary

**Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME
Development**

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WINDHOEK

- Chairman and fellow Commissioners of the Namibian Competition Commission
- The CEO and staff of the Namibian Competition Commission
- Captains of industries and their representatives
- Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen

I am grateful to be here tonight on the occasion of the sixth Stakeholders' Gala Dinner of the Namibian Competition Commission. I wish to acknowledge the various sectors represented at this gathering, particularly the business community who are the primary stakeholders of the Competition Commission.

I am particularly delighted that this gathering has brought together the business community, economists, labour unions, legal practitioners, academics, media stakeholders, to mention but a few, all who play a key role on competition law in Namibia. This gathering has without doubt brought together key

influencers that can make fair competition a reality in the Namibian market.

This is the sixth stakeholder gala dinner since the inception of the Commission in 2009. I am informed that these stakeholders gathering provide an opportunity for competition stakeholders to engage on issues of mutual concern as well as provide platform to raise and deepen awareness on competition issues, also to appreciate the stakeholders' efforts in supporting the Commission to achieve its mandate.

Director of Ceremonies, It is my hope that with each stakeholder engagement, there is a significant addition to the culture of competition in Namibia. We need to build and sustain a healthy culture of competition because it is a starting point for innovation and competitiveness.

Director of Ceremonies, I would like to confirm that given today's market realities, markets cannot function and deliver without a fair supply chain from input supplies to consumption. Businesses in the various sectors are integrated from production, supplies, transport, wholesale and retail.

Therefore, it is important to understand the massive contributions that each sector brings to the supply chain, not just producers and suppliers but countless value adding businesses along the chain.

As the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development, our mandate is to promote growth and development of the economy through the formulation and implementation of appropriate policies to attract investment, increase trade, develop and expand the country's industrial base. In pursuance of this mandate, we go all out to facilitate an enabling environment by putting in place all the policy frameworks such as the Competition Act, and we even go further by providing technical and financial support through various agencies.

Director of Ceremonies, the government, and indeed the Ministry, are fully aware that this nation will never be globally competitive unless we produce excellent products and services for both the local and global markets. It is our belief that the starting point for global competitiveness is not just access to markets but fair competition between the enterprises in the various stages of the supply chain.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Competition Act No.2 of 2003, is premised on the view that fair competition will lead to lower prices, wider choices to the consumers and innovation or quality products and services. Fair competition will also assist us to provide room for growth and development of the SME sector and thus create the jobs we highly seek. It should therefore be made clear that the Government of Namibia is the architect and champion of fair competition.

Director of Ceremonies, coming to the core mandate of the Commission, I am informed that several restrictive business practices investigations have been undertaken in the glass, agro processing and the health industries as well as a number of media screenings concerning Aviation, Dairy and the Pharmaceutical Industries. Additionally, over 300 mergers and acquisition cases were determined by the Commission since its establishment. The Commission has also undertaken research in some sectors of the economy, to gain an in-depth understanding of how sectors and markets operate.

I therefore as I conclude, wish to assure all of you that the Ministry remains steadfast in its support to the work of the

Competition Commission. Let me also implore all of us here tonight to work hand in hand with the institution and ensure it deliver on their mandate and even according to your expectations.

I thank you and wish you all an awesome festive season!