



VOTE OF THANKS

BY

MR MIHE GAOMAB II

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NAMIBIAN COMPETITION COMMISSION

AT THE ANNUAL STAKEHOLDERS GALA DINNER

HILTON HOTEL, WINDHOEK

05 DECEMBER 2013

Master of Ceremonies

Honourable Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Honourable Tjekero

Tweya

Mr Festus Hangula, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners

Board of Commissioners

Lead Private Sector World Bank Specialist, Mr Chunlin Zhang

Chairman of the Committee on Competition Law and Policy, OECD, Dr

Frederic Jenny

Chairman of the Competition Law Forum in Namibia, Mr Hans-Bruno Gerdes

Distinguished Guests

Staff Members of the Commission

Members of the Media

All protocol observed

A very good evening to you all,

**On behalf of the Namibian Competition Commission, allow me to express our
gratitude indeed to the Invited Guests for your presence tonight.**

Tonight, I stand proudly and at the same time humbled as the Commission celebrates its fourth year of existence in this month of December, to be exact on 9th December. 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 as well as to you our stakeholders, who engage with the Commission on a daily basis.

When the Commission became operational in December 2009, it was headed and ran by me until it got off the ground, the need arose to strengthen the human resource capacity because the Commission carries a mammoth task that requires a highly strategic and technical economic approach.

I would like to take this moment to highlight the developments of the Commission since we are also celebrating its existence of four years.

As a young maturing Commission, we can proudly say that we are in Business! The Commission is operationally strong, with a strong distinct corporate branding, with a professionally laid out infrastructure at the office.

Indeed the first four years were formative, setting up the institution, clarifying procedures and processes and building a reputation as an independent authority.

The Commission has developed a corporate identity and its website (www.nacc.com.na) to enhance its visibility and incorporate the social media platforms for an on the spot engagement with stakeholders.

Our enforcement efforts have grown exponentially, with around 213 mergers determined by October 2013, and more than 20 investigations into restrictive business practices.

It was in these four years that many lessons, that make us a better enforcer, were learnt.

The Commission will embark on an ambitious strategic planning exercise defining the next four years as a new era. This involves renewed prioritisation of enforcement, focus on advocacy and compliance as well as in the area of research.

We are therefore fully established and we are now positioning ourselves on strengthening our advocacy to our stakeholders and to effect competition enforcement.

Indeed as the Chairman indicated, today we celebrate the World Competition Day, dedicated to the theme *Adverse Impact of Cartels on the Poor*. It is important to prevent large businesses from abusing their dominant position, forming cartels, bid rigging and applying prohibited practices. These issues, if not approached cautiously, may result in a significant restriction of competition and cause widespread economic loss.

It is worth noting that in many cases the efficient enforcement of fair competition still constitutes a real challenge. Therefore we appreciate, through you Honourable Tweya, the support rendered to the Commission by our line Ministry. Your leadership and vision has guided us in effectively carrying out our mandate.

To the Board of Commissioners, without your visionary leadership, we will not be able to stand firm, therefore on behalf of the Secretariat and the staff, we thank you.

To the staff of the Commission, I would like to say, without your dedication and commitment, the Commission will not function at its best. Therefore, I thank you for going the extra mile in carrying out your given duties.

My task however, does not end with the vote of thanks. I have been given the extra task of showing some tokens of appreciation to our valued stakeholders.

The following awards have been identified:

1. Media Appreciation Award

Mr Denver Isaacs from the Namibian Sun

2. Esteemed Stakeholder Award

Engling, Stritter & Partners

3. Chairperson's Corporate Award

CRAN

During its annual Consumer Protection and Competition Week, the Commission holds an essay competition involving UNAM and Polytechnic students in the faculties of economics and law. This year, three winners were identified:

We acknowledge the winners,

1. Mr Johannes Hatutale and
2. Mr Kaindume Jason Shandja, *in absentia*.
3. I understand Ms Sara Kandume is here is to receive her award. Kindly come forward.

I wish you all a wonderful festive season.

I thank you!