

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HER EXCELLENCY DR. NETUMBO
NANDI-NDAITWAH VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF NAMIBIA**

AT THE GLOBAL AFRICAN HYDROGEN SUMMIT

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WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Salutations

No Namibian can dispute the fact that if it was not for our 3rd President HE Dr Hage Geingob we would not be hosting this important meeting because he passionately drove this initiative of Green Hydrogen and Green Industrialization.

Indeed Namibia is honoured to have been chosen to host the Global African Hydrogen Summit. I have been informed that over 1000 delegates from all corners of the globe are expected to attend. Allow me therefore to on behalf of the President of the Republic of Namibia H.E. Nangolo Mbumba to welcome you to Namibia. Please be assured that it is our distinct pleasure to have you here and we hope that you get to enjoy the best Namibian open space and the warm hearts of our people.

The subject matter of green hydrogen and green industrialization has captivated the minds of many over the past three years. Since independence, Namibia has made it a strategic objective at the highest levels in government to industrialize our economies in a

sustainable and competitive manner. In fact environmental protection in Namibia is not only a natural responsibility but a constitutional obligation.

This goal has been clearly articulated in our Vision 2030 and strategically reinforced in subsequent National Development Plans since 2004 as well as the Harambee prosperity plan. Importantly, this objective is shared with our continental peers and has been captured in Africa Agenda 2063, “The Africa We Want”, where many African states recognize the interconnected nature of our economic and environmental ecosystems.

The utilization of abundant renewable energy potential to produce hydrogen, which can be used as a fundamental building block for hard to abate sectors, has emerged as a promising means to combat climate change, while also offering an important developmental pathway. This concept is worthy of detailed study and research and Namibia is investing its fair share of intellectual space towards this pursuit.

According to our recently launched Green Industrialization Blueprint, these sustainable new industrial complexes may offer compelling opportunities to create new jobs, diversify our economic output and even augment our electricity and clean water production. However, like all industrial complexes of significant scale, careful attention needs to be paid to their potential footprint on our precious flora and fauna. Namibia is committed to ensure that a fair balance is struck between economic development and ecological preservation.

It is encouraging for me to witness such a diverse gathering of brilliant minds from around the world that have convened here to help us curate rich conversations on these vital topics. Namibia offers a rich and welcoming environment that is well suited to host an impactful green industrialization eco-system.

To give you a brief synopsis of why I say so. Namibia has rich deposits of the minerals required to build clean industries, such as critical rare earth elements and lithium. We also help our Zambian neighbours trade

their copper, a key ingredient for sustainable industries, with global markets.

We have some of the best wind and solar resources in the region, close to our well-developed port and rail infrastructure and we have plans to expand those infrastructure to facilitate even broader trade in low carbon goods between our regional neighbours and our global customers.

Lastly, we have the space, a progressive immigration system and a young and developing workforce which makes Namibia an ideal location to house some of these new and emerging industries. In a nutshell Namibia is open for business that will make meaningful impact to our development as it benefits the investor. Therefore, you are all welcome to explore all the possibilities.

While Namibia has a lot to offer, our neighbours from around the continent have made remarkable progress in this space as well. I congratulate Egypt's Fertiglobe which was the first recipient of the H2 Global tender for

green ammonia, securing an off-take price of €1,000 per ton delivered to the port of Rotterdam.

Mauritania's Cabinet has just concluded their legislative draft which has been submitted to their parliament, cementing their efforts to incubate a synthetic fuels industry.

Kenya has made significant progress in their plans to establish a local fertilizer industry using geothermal power as their renewable source of power that will be used to produce green hydrogen. We are thus assured of a rich and engaging dialogue in the days ahead.

Before I conclude, I would like to pause here to thank the organizers, dmg events, vasco dagama energies, our very own Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board and the Namibian Green Hydrogen Programme for their tireless collective efforts to help us deliver what promises to be a fruitful Summit.

I for one am excited for what lays ahead of us. I am particularly looking forward to visiting the innovation centre where I expect to meet some of the 100 youth

who have received complimentary passes to this prestigious Summit. The youth are the assets that we have in Namibia and Africa.

I commend the organisers for this well thought idea as the youth are critical enablers of this transformative industry.

Without further ado, please allow me to wish you all a very productive Summit and I look forward to receiving a synthesis of the dynamic discussions that you are sure to have over the course of the next two days.

Wishing you a rewarding stay in our country, the Land of the Brave.

I thank you.