



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**STATEMENT BY  
HONOURABLE INDILENI DANIEL, MP  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM  
AT THE  
FIRST MEETING WITH MINISTRY OFFICIALS**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

**GOVERNMENT AUDITORIUM  
WINDHOEK  
KHOMAS REGION**

**Director of ceremonies**

**Mr. Teofilus Nghitila: Executive Director**

**Officials of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism**

**Members of the Media**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

Good morning!

I am happy for this platform that allows us to meet physically, to get to know one another and to exchange greetings and expectations now that the new administration is in place and my subsequent appointment as Minister of Environment, Forestry and Tourism by Her Excellency President Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah.

I am indeed deeply honoured and humbled for the responsibility of heading this Ministry, I am happy to address you as we embark on a new era of leadership and commitment to excellence. Our collective mission remains clear and it is to **preserve Namibia's natural heritage, foster sustainable tourism, and drive economic growth while ensuring environmental stewardship.**

As I assume office, I want to echo the words of President Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah, who has set a clear expectation for all government institutions: **“Delays in the implementation of decisions taken will not be accepted.”** This directive underscores the urgency of our work and the need for efficiency, innovation, and accountability in all our operations. Thus, some adjustments will be necessary to ensure that we align our

work with the **SWAPO Party's Election Manifesto of 2024 and its associated Implementation Plan**. There are targets in our Manifesto that must be met within the timelines prescribed in the Implementation Plan.

**Director of ceremonies,**

As mentioned earlier, this Ministry plays a pivotal role in Namibia's economic development. Tourism is a critical economic enabler. Our natural resources, including wildlife and protected areas, are important drivers of tourism and have a key role to play in our drive towards greater self-sufficiency and poverty reduction in their own right.

In case of tourism, we need to ensure that a Spatial Tourism Master Plan is developed by **June 30<sup>th</sup> 2025**. Attracting and encouraging new investments to ensure industry diversification and sustainability will be a key and urgent focus of mine. This is necessary to stimulate the local economy by redefining the tourism landscape to bring about greater socio-economic inclusion. We also need to ensure optimum benefits for all local communities from tourism and natural resources through value addition and diversification.

Capitalising and fully operationalizing the Lotteries and Gambling Boards, and Access and Benefit Sharing Office will be a further focus of mine so that we generate much needed revenue for Treasury and improve regulation of these important sectors.

**Director of Ceremonies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We must remain steadfast in our commitment to **integrity**. The President has made it clear that “**corruption should be seen as treason**”, a clarion call for all of us to uphold the highest ethical standards in our service to the nation.

In alignment with the SWAPO Party’s 2024 Election Manifesto and the 6<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan (NDP6), we must act decisively in the following areas but not limited to:

### **Improving Service Delivery & Efficiency**

- We must work as a team, coordinate across directorates, and strengthen customer service at all levels.
- Fast-track the issuance of environmental clearance certificates to facilitate responsible development.
- Digitalize services, including tourism information systems, to improve data collection and analysis.

### **Sustainable Tourism, Gaming Development and Community Benefits**

- Develop a Spatial Tourism Master Plan by June 30, 2025 to ensure organized and inclusive growth.
- Capitalize and fully operationalize the Lotteries and Gambling Boards to generate revenue for tourism Development.
- Attract new investments in tourism to diversify and strengthen the sector
- Ensure that local communities benefit from our natural resources through value addition and increased participation in tourism initiatives.

## **Environmental Protection & Resource Management**

- Accelerate reforestation efforts to combat deforestation and land degradation.
- Enhance climate change resilience by implementing the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to support food, water, and energy security.
- Operationalize the Access and Benefit Sharing Office to ensure communities derive value from natural resources.

## **Strengthening Anti-Poaching & Conservation Efforts**

- Increase investment in protected area infrastructure to safeguard wildlife and address human-wildlife conflicts.
- Improve the management of concession rights to communities to ensure income generation while also supporting nature conservation and potentially changing community perceptions about wildlife and protected areas.
- Enhance inter-ministerial and stakeholder collaboration to protect Namibia's biodiversity.

## **Policy Implementation & Removing Bottlenecks**

- We have a robust set of policies on waste management, forestry, wildlife, climate, and biodiversity.
- Our duty is to ensure these policies are fully implemented and to remove any barriers hindering progress.
- Strengthen partnerships with state agencies, civil society, and intergovernmental organizations to mobilize additional resources.

## **A Call for Unity & Collective Effort**

As we move forward, I urge every member of this Ministry to embrace teamwork and unity. **Ours is a strategic Ministry with a critical mandate, and it is only through collective effort and by working with all stakeholders and partners that we can fulfil our responsibilities to the Namibian people. It can not continue to be business as usual. It is our job to serve the public and we can not have the public beg us for services.**

Let us work **efficiently, ethically, diligently** and with **unwavering dedication** to ensure that our Ministry delivers on its promises and contributes meaningfully to the well-being of our environment, economy, and communities at large. We must be resolute in upholding the highest ethical standards in all that we do.

I count on your full support and commitment as we take bold steps together towards a more sustainable environment and prosperous Namibia.

**Let's get to work! I thank you.**