



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**OPENING REMARKS BY HON. AMB. SELMA
ASHIPALA-MUSAVYI, MP, MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND TRADE,
DURING THE 11TH SESSION OF THE NAMIBIA-
RUSSIA INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION ON
TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION**

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

16 MARCH 2026

**Check Against Delivery*

Your Excellency Yury Trutnev, Deputy Prime Minister and Presidential Envoy to the Far Eastern Federal District and Co-Chair of our 11th Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation,

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Members of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon

1. Once again, I extend a warm welcome to Your Excellency Yury Trutnev and your entire delegation to the Republic of Namibia. May I also express my profound gratitude to you Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers for your participation in this meeting today. A meeting which I hope you agree with me, is an affirmation of the importance we all attach to the longstanding friendship between our two peoples, which in turn translate into the bilateral relations and cooperation between our two sisterly countries.
2. Your Excellency, the pleasant memories of my recent working visit to the Russian Federation, and particularly to Moscow still resonates. Notwithstanding the fact that it was your first day in office in 2026, at the height of winter, you availed yourself and welcomed me and my delegation

warmly in Moscow and we had a very fruitful meeting. While the visit took me down to memory lane, when in my youth days, I was among the few to have attended the Komsomol Youth Leadership School in Moscow, we discussed the content of this Session, and the possibility of convening a Namibian- Russia Business Forum. I am taking this opportunity to thank you for your efforts in facilitating the convening of the Business Forum, the first of its kind between us.

3. Your Excellency, it is said that the only constant is change. The current geopolitical climate is testimony to that truism. The world is characterized by uncertainty more than ever before. International peace and security are under immense threat. Fostering peaceful cooperation through diplomacy is fading out. And in Namibia, we believe it is our collective responsibility as the global community to bring about a safer world for both the present and future generations. Our meeting today is a building block to that lofty aspiration. Our two countries have continued to work closely at both the bilateral and multilateral forums, and we are particularly proud that we hold similar positions to many issues.

Your Excellency

Distinguished Delegates,

4. We hold today the 11th Session of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, to

among others, review progress made after the 10th Session. This is also an opportunity to come up with new areas of potential cooperation.

5. I believe the Business Forum which brought together a broad spectrum of our businesspeople, has added new impetus to our mutual desire to take our bilateral cooperation on trade and investment to the next level. The Forum thus provided our businesspeople ample opportunity to critically explore and analyze the opportunities our countries offer in terms of trade and investment. I shall be remiss if do not at this juncture extend our deepest gratitude to our two private sectors for turning up in numbers last week Friday for the Business Forum. Particularly, I want to thank, through Your Excellency, the Russian business people for having travelled the long distance to participate at the Business Forum.

6. It is therefore my hope there will be more people to people contacts and business engagements. The Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB) and our Trade Department are ready to play their roles in these engagements.

7. The Namibian government under the leadership of Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia, has identified priority areas

within the framework of the sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) and which I alluded to during our meeting in Moscow, as well as my opening remarks at the Business Forum. These priority areas are agriculture, sports, youth empowerment, education and training, creative industries, health, land, housing, and sanitation. These priority areas are very important to the upliftment of the living standards of our people. I therefore continue to invite the Russian business community to explore business opportunities in these priority areas.

8. I have glanced through the outcome of the Business Forum document and am happy to note that, follow up activities have been identified.

9. The establishment of a fertilizer manufacturing plant as a means of supporting the various agricultural green schemes across the country was also discussed at the agriculture breakaway group. The discussion focused on the meat and poultry industries. In this project, Namibia will appreciate the support of the Russian Federation. The fertilizer plant will not only reduce cost but it will also boost agricultural production at the existing project sites and increase output for those doing farming at the subsistence level. In the long run, this will translate to reduced dependence on importing food and position Namibia to export both food and fertilizer to other countries in Africa, in the context of the AfCFTA.

Your Excellency,

Distinguished Delegates

10. Since the 10th Session, I am glad that several draft agreements have been finalized and are ready for signing, this includes the Draft Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters.

11. Progress has also been made on the implementation of the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Geology and Subsoil Management. The 2nd Joint Working Group met on 26 February 2026 in Windhoek, during which the parties reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen bilateral relation and cooperation in the areas of mining. At the same time, there are many more legal instruments pending. I urge all stakeholders to expedite the finalization of all outstanding cooperation frameworks for signing in the nearest future.

12. I am confident that our two countries will continue to explore the unlimited potential for investment, trade and bilateral cooperation for the benefit of our people.

13. With these few remarks, I declare the Eleventh Session of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Namibia and the Russian Federation officially open.

14. I now invite you my distinguished Co-Chair to deliver your remarks.

**I Thank You
SPACIBA!**