

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**OPENING REMAKRS BY
HON. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER ON THE
OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL TALKS WITH
HONOURABLE AKINWUNMI AMBODE, EXECUTIVE
GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE, 20 MARCH 2016**

Honourable Akinwunmi Ambode, Executive Governor of Lagos State,

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Commissioners,

Ladies and Gentleman

I am honoured by your presence here today, which demonstrate the traditional fraternal relations between our two countries. I want to take this opportunity to welcome you Honourable Governor and your delegation to your home away from home.

Honourable Governor,

The Bilateral relations between the Republic of Namibia and the Federal Republic of Nigeria date back to pre-independence. Nigeria rendered generous support to SWAPO during the national liberation struggle in terms of moral, technical, logistical and financial assistance. Nigeria hosted hundreds of young Namibians who were pursuing secondary and tertiary education in various federal states. In spite of your country's geographic location, the leadership still found it imperative to become an active member of what came to be known as the Frontline States + Nigeria, thus actively participated in all major activities in support of Namibia's decolonization process. This commitment by the Republic of Nigeria is quite commendable.

Honourable Governor,

Our bilateral cooperation is guided by the Framework Cooperation Agreement which was signed on 3 February 1992. Furthermore, during the State Visit to the Republic of Namibia by President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, from 20-21 March 2014, further impetus were added to our relations through the signing of various Agreements and/or Memorandums of Understanding (MoU's) aimed at strengthening the relations and contribute towards greater economic cooperation and integration. Furthermore, our two countries have in place a functioning Joint Commission of Cooperation which structures our strong historical relations. It is therefore, appropriate to consider greater cooperation between the Lagos State and Namibia. I propose that such cooperation should focus on promoting win-win investments between the companies and business entities, and institutions to promote linkages and cooperation. The idea of promoting South-South cooperation between our countries will provide an opportunity to unlock the potential of our respective countries.

Honourable Governor,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that Windhoek is indeed a vibrant capital. In this regard, it is important that during your stay in Namibia, you are able to visit a few enterprises to acquaint yourselves with premier Namibian products that can be exported to Lagos and Nigeria at large. In particular, we have arranged meetings and visits to one of Namibia first class companies, Meatco. I am confident that your

brief but focused visit will present you with an opportunity to gain valuable insights on how we can boost exports between our two countries.

Honourable Governor,

It is important that your visit provides further momentum and that follow up is made through organising trade and investment mission to Lagos by Namibian captains of industry and likewise by companies from Lagos State to Namibia. The trade Missions from Nigeria should be scheduled for October in order to allow Nigerian entrepreneurs to attend the Windhoek Industrial and Agricultural show. During these shows, the various actors from our two sides can explore opportunities in the area of Abattoirs, tourism and mining. Namibia is currently establishing itself as the logistical hub of SADC. I therefore propose closer cooperation between the Port of Walvis Bay and the Lagos Port to make it possible for our industrialists to export products such Palm Oil, Gari, Yam, Beef and others between these two ports.

I also wish to refer again to the discussion Your Excellency held with our President in Lagos. I am talking about the need for land donation to Namibia's consular activities in the suitable location. This will assist immensely with promoting trade and investment between Namibia and Lagos State. Our High Commission, together with the Honorary Consul, will follow-up.

Let us make use of our bilateral agreements as well as the goodwill between our two nations to fast-track mutually beneficial projects between our two countries. In conclusion, allow me once again to extend our profound appreciation to you and your delegation for making time available from your busy schedule to pay this official visit to Namibia. I thank you.