

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER, DR. ADRIANATUS MASEKE, DIRECTORATE OF VETERINARY SERVICES, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY, DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 22ND CONFERENCE OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE) REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA: 20 TO 24 FEBRUARY 2017, SWAKOPMUND, NAMIBIA

The Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Honourable J Mutorwa
The Regional Governor for Erongo Region, Honourable C Mutjavikua
President of the World Assembly of Delegates, Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane,
President of the Regional Commission for Africa, Dr Komla, Batasse Batawui,
Director General of the OIE, Dr Monique Eloit,
OIE Regional Representative for Africa, Dr Karim Tounkara
OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Southern Africa, Dr Moetapele Letshwenyo
OIE Sub-Regional Representative for North Africa, Dr Rachid Bouguedour
OIE Sub-Regional Representative for Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, Dr Samuel Wakhusama
OIE Delegates from the African Continent,
CVO of Namibia Dr Maseke and his delegation,
Other Invited Guests,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and gentlemen,
All protocol observed,

I'm quite elated to welcome you all to this 22nd Conference of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Regional Commission for Africa here in

Swakopmund. Let me also pay homage to our honourable Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Honourable J Mutorwa and the Regional Governor of Erongo Region, Honourable Cleophas Mutjavikua who have found time during their busy schedule to grace our Conference. This is ample testimony of the importance to which animal health issues are given by our political principals.

My team and I will strive to ensure that we have a successful Conference. I am inviting all the delegates and invited guests to let us know about any arrangements that will make their stay pleasant during the course of the Conference. Please feel free to make any suggestions that can improve the conduct of this Conference.

Our common purpose of meeting here is to forge global objectives of food security for all by 2030 and the OIE through its role as a standard setting body on animal health is an appropriate vehicle through which we can achieve our objectives.

Our task this week is therefore by no means an easy one. On our shoulders we carry the expectations of the voiceless masses in the villages who produce but they cannot sell and the malnourished in our townships who want to eat but cannot find food. We must therefore strive to minimise constraints like animal disease which hinder food production and marketing of those products.

We remain at your disposal, ladies and gentlemen.

I thank you,

Dr. AF Maseke

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER