



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY, HONOURABLE JOHN MUTORWA AT THE WELCOME COCKTAIL AT SWAKOPMUND HOTEL AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

- The Regional Governor for Erongo Region, Honourable C Mutjavikua;
- The Mayor of the City of Swakopmund, Her Worship, Paulina Nashilundo;
- Director General of the OIE, Dr Monique Eloit;
- President of the World Assembly of Delegates, Dr Botlhe Michael Modisane;
- President of the Regional Commission for Africa, Dr Komla, Batasse Batawui;
- 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 and members of delegation from the African Continent;
- Other Invited Guests;

- Ladies and gentlemen;
 - All protocol observed.
1. It gives me pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of the Namibian Government to this welcome cocktail. Let me thank the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), once more for allowing us to host such an important Conference. I also thank the OIE Director General and staff, OIE experts, OIE delegates from Africa, OIE collaborating partners and members of delegation for accepting our invitation to the cocktail.
 2. I trust you all travelled well and have settled at your respective hotels and lodges. This is our first time to host a Conference of this magnitude and we sincerely hope to meet your expectation. I would encourage the delegates to find time on the side-lines of this Conference to follow up on issues of a bilateral nature in order to improve control of transboundary animal diseases and discuss issues to do with trade in animals and animal products. I am concerned that trade among the African countries is rather low and that situation needs to be reversed to improve livelihoods of our farmers.
 3. I therefore invite you to sample organic Namibian cuisine and some of our award winning beverages, bon appetite.

I thank you,

HONOURABLE JOHN MUTORWA, MP
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY