



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE ALPHEUS G. !NARUSEB, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY AT THE FAREWELL OF THE OUT-GOING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF NAMIBIA AGRONOMIC BOARD (NAB), 3 AUGUST 2018.

Mr Christof Brock Farewell and Dr Fidelis Mwazi Welcoming

Director of ceremonies,

Hon Helmut Angula, Former Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

Hon Anna Shiweda, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

Mr. Percy Misika, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

Former Permanent Secretaries of Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry present,

Mr. Michael Iyambo, The Chairperson of the NAB and

The NAB Board members present

Previous NAB Chairperson and board members present

Chairperson of SOEs present

The CEOs and MDs of SOEs present

Representatives of the Agricultural unions present,

Producers, Traders and Processors of Agronomic and Horticulture products present

Media present

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening,

I am honoured to be here this evening as we celebrate the retirement of Mr Christof Brock who has been the CEO of the NAB for 17 years. While at the same time we welcome the new CEO, Dr Fidelis Nyambe Mwazi.

To Mr Christof Brock:

Mr Brock is a well-known figure to all of us present tonight, some worked with him and some served as his Chairpersons and Board members during his time at the NAB, and some are just friends within the industry.

Christof embarked on his journey as CEO of the NAB on the 1st of March 2001, and on 31st July 2018, he marked 17 years and 5 months with the NAB at the age of 65 years.

When he started at the NAB he was not a stranger to the NAB. Since 1994 to 1996 he alternated with Mr Bernd Rothkegel as MAWF Representative on the NAB Board.

While he was with MAWF, he also served as MAWF representative on various Task Teams which were managed by the NAB at the time. Christof was a constructive contributor to these Task Teams wherever they met to discuss Cotton AND Mahangu matters amongst others.

Therefore when he started at the NAB he was well acquainted with the NAB.

Upon Christof joining the NAB, only White Maize and Wheat were gazetted as controlled crops. Under his leadership the Horticulture products and Mahangu became controlled crops.

I am sure all are familiar with the fact that when horticulture products became controlled crops, the market share MSP only a meagre 5% of the total marketed fruit and vegetables were Namibian produced, today that figure stands at 47%.

White maize production figures also doubled under his leadership. This is remarkable and shows his commitment to Namibian growth in terms of the agronomy and horticulture industries.

Furthermore, under his leadership the reward to the best producer grew from only one Master Agronomist for commercial farmers to five more awards that include small scale farmers as well for their initiatives.

When he started at the NAB the reserves of the NAB stood at N\$2 million. Under his leadership it grew to almost N\$50 million. In 2015 part of those reserves were ploughed back into the industry and today Christof leaves the NAB with an almost N\$10 million in the Reserve Fund.

MAWF enjoyed good and smooth working relations with NAB during Christof tenure as CEO of NAB. At times things appeared quite “heated” but never personal.

Christof, I am sure that we will still tap from your wisdom and experience in the future. For now just enjoy your time in retirement and as we send you into retirement we open another chapter in the era of the NAB by welcoming Dr Fidelis Nyambe Mwazi as our new CEO.

To Dr Fidelis Nyambe Mwazi:

Dr Mwazi is also not a stranger to the NAB in particular and the Agronomic industry in general. Dr Mwazi was the National Horticulture Manager at the NAB from 13 May 2013 to 06

February 2015 before he started with AMTA on 9 February 2015 until 30 June 2018 as the Senior Manager for Standards and Trade Division. Now he is back with a doctorate degree in crop science coupled with industrial experience in Market Share Promotion, Border control, Food Safety and Standards and as the new CEO for the NAB. Well done and congratulation once more!

Dr Mwazi you will be the first black CEO in history starting at one of the Agricultural Boards. I believe that there will be high expectations of you from all folks of life in the industry to keep the momentum left by your predecessor.

Hence, you are expected to accelerate creating a marketing environment that is conducive to growing and processing crops in Namibia in order to increase local food production, enhance value addition and ensure food security. Of course, you can achieve this in collaboration with industry stakeholders and in return improve quality of life of our citizens.

With your tested varsity experience in the agronomic and horticulture industry combined with your qualifications, I am convinced and have no doubt that the Namibian Agronomic Board and the entire industry is in capable hands. I am also confident that you will strive to uphold the core values of integrity, teamwork, fairness, independent thinking, pro-activity and accountability.

I trust that you will have good relationships with all stakeholders particularly farmers and traders in Namibia in order to take the Agronomic and Horticulture Industry to greater heights. In addition, I also urge you to work hand-in-hand with the livestock industry, to ensure highly integrated and coordinated agricultural development interventions that maximise complementarities and synergies as the irrigation could assist in the provision of livestock fodders taking into consideration our climatic conditions due to climate changes.

Dr. Mwazi, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry under my leadership will always maintain the unwavering support to the NAB and you are most welcome to engage the Ministry for assistance in driving the agronomic and horticulture industry to greater heights.

Ladies and gentlemen, as stakeholders of the agronomic and horticulture industry in Namibia, I urge you to render your individual and collective support to Dr Mwazi and his team at the NAB so that as a country we realize our vision for the sector.

With these few words, I wish you all the best and thank you.

Enjoy your evening!

THANK YOU!