



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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**STATEMENT BY JOHN MUTORWA, MP AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY (MAWF), DELIVERED DURING AN OCCASION OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SCIENCE SERVICE CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTIVE LAND MANAGEMENT (SASSCAL) BOARD MEETING, IN WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA: MONDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2015.**

- Esteemed SASSCAL Governing Board Members;
  - Executive Director: SASSCAL Regional Secretariat;
  - SASSCAL Staff Members;
  - Officials from the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN);
  - Ladies and Gentlemen.
1. For and to those, who have travelled from outside the national borders of our Country, I warmly welcome you, on behalf of the GRN, to our “contrasting beautiful Namibia; the Land of the Brave!” (quoted from Namibia’s NATIONAL ANTHEM).
  2. Today, but; three years, five months and few weeks ago; Government Representatives (MINISTERS), from:
    - (a) Republic of Angola;
    - (b) Republic of Botswana;
    - (c) Federal Republic of Germany;

- (d) Republic of Namibia;
- (e) Republic of South Africa and;
- (f) Republic of Zambia, assembled here, in WINDHOEK; and signed in the GRN's old Cabinet meeting Chambers, the: "**JOINT DECLARATION TO IMPLEMENT THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SCIENCE SERVICE CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTIVE LAND MANAGEMENT (SASSCAL)**", on 18 April 2012.

3. Through and on behalf of their respective Governments, the FIVE (5) Ministers (signatories), amongst others:

(a) "Confirm to cooperate and strengthen the regional scientific capacity in the following focus areas: AGRICULTURE, BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE, FORESTRY and WATER;

(b) Commit to establish jointly the SASSCAL and to maintain it as a strong regional cooperation initiative;

(c) Affirm political and financial commitment of the African partners to share responsibility to promote, establish and sustain the joint initiative," (quoted from 18 April 2012, WINDHOEK JOINT DECLARATION).

4. As a member and as a host country of the SASSCAL Regional Secretariat Head Office, Namibia notes with satisfaction, that: since its establishment, SASSCAL has successfully accomplished many activities and indeed practically implemented many of its planned programmes and projects. Admittedly, many important planned activities are still to be implemented, for example:

- (a) The actual commencement of the practical construction of the SASSCAL Regional Head Office, on the GRN donated land, here in Windhoek, Namibia; in this regard, Namibia reiterates its commitment and readiness to avail its humble financial contributions, towards the actual construction of the said SASSCAL Regional Head Office.
  - (b) Finalization of the Transformation Process of SASSCAL to an International Organization under Public Law;
  - (c) Setting up of an appropriate day or date for the Ministerial Conference of the FIVE signatory Sovereign States or Parties, to deliberate on some very important relevant issues, at which important final resolutions are to be taken, in the best interest of and for the good of SASSCAL.
  - (d) The negotiation with SADC on its role as the depository for the SASSCAL founding documents, its registration and arbitration, settlement of disputes; as well as the finalization of the negotiation with SADC to have an ex-officio seat on the SASSCAL Governing Board.
  - (e) The drafting and finalization of the Host Country Agreement, for the SASSCAL as an INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, and many more issues.
5. The Federal Republic of Germany's valuable financial contributions to SASSCAL is and shall remain deeply appreciated by all the remaining

FIVE (5) Member States of: Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia.

6. Mindful of the fact that: the Federal Republic of Germany's funding will start to reduce from 2017 onwards, by 25% per annum, it is the understanding that the five aforementioned member States, will have to continue to make financial allocations, on an equal basis, to cover the said amount; ideally on the basis of the already adopted SASSCAL FUNDING FORMULA.
7. On our part, the GRN, through the MAWF, has made a budgetary provision, in the amount of TWENTY TWO (N\$ 22 Million) Million Namibian Dollars, for the earthworks and physical preparation of the construction site of the SASSCAL Regional Headquarters. This is in addition to the availing of Land and the cost paid to the Architect, who has prepared the drawings and building plans for our, the Member States' SASSCAL Regional Secretariat's Administrative Regional Head Office. For today's meeting, I urge you all, to look at the total cost of the Project; and thereafter mutually agree on how the SIX (6) Member States, should jointly finance this noble project. In the end, the SASSCAL building must be architecturally attractive, of quality; in order for those who are going to work in that facility (building) to provide effective and professionally efficient public services for the SIX (6) Member States, SADC, Africa and the world, at large.
8. Finally, I am concluding this speech, by quoting from PARAGRAPH 6 of my 10 July 2013 inaugural statement of the SASSCAL Board meeting, which was held, here in Windhoek, Namibia: "We need to explore innovative new approaches, based on science, on how to

better prepare for the effects of climate change and its impact on the globe. Therefore, in our strive for economic development and growth, it is imperative for us to strike a good balance between economic growth, on the one hand and sustainable development on the other. When designing and planning our programmes and projects, we need to constantly ask ourselves the following question: How do we use the natural resources at our disposal, more efficiently, without increasing the risk of natural disasters?

9. As declare your very important meeting officially and publicly opened, permit me to wish you all, individually and collectively as a SASSCAL Board and Management: constructive, engaging, focussed, fruitful, honest and successful deliberations.
10. I thank you all for your kind attention.