



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

**OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE MEATBOARD MEMBERS
FOR 2017-2020, BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER
AND FORESTRY (MAWF), THURSDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2017,
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA.**

1. I extend cordial greetings and welcome to:
 - (a) MAWF officials;
 - (b) Leaders of Farmers' Organizations (Producers);
 - (c) Esteemed MeatBoard Members;
 - (d) General Manager of MeatBoard and MeatBoard Staff Members;
 - (e) Esteemed Members of the Media;

2. On Tuesday, 24 January 2017, I sent a letter, to the leaders of those Organizations, who are identified and mentioned in Section 3(1) (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of the MEAT INDUSTRY AMENDMENT ACT, 1992 (ACT NUMBER 21 OF 1992); read together with SCHEDULE 2: LAWS AMENDED, of the STATE OWNED ENTERPRISES GOVERNANCE ACT, 2006 (ACT NUMBER 2 of 2006), requesting them to: "submit to me suitable and appropriately qualified Names (both females and males) of

persons, with their Curricula Vitae, for possible appointments, as new Members of the MeatBoard of Namibia.”

3. By the set deadline of 3 February 2017, more than THIRTY FIVE (35) names of persons, with their CV's, were submitted and indeed, received at our Offices.
4. We thank the Organizations, representing the Producers of Livestock (NAU and NNFU); Manufacturers of Meat Products; Traders in Meat; Marketing Agents and the MAWF through the DARD, (as Livestock Producer) for their positive and very timely responses!
5. In terms of the provisions of the Law, the MeatBoard of Namibia is composed of: TWELVE (12) MEMBERS. The 2017-2020 MeatBoard is 50-50 gender balanced; as it was also the case with the 2014-2017 MeatBoard composition. I decided to retain only THREE (3) persons from the previous outgoing MeatBoard members, for the sake of continuity and experience. The said persons are:
 - (a) Ms Patricia GURUBES (Chairperson);
 - (b) Dr Archibald NORVAL (Deputy Chairperson);
 - (c) Mr Floris VAN NIEKERK.
6. MESSAGE TO THE MEATBOARD MEMBERS
 - (a) You have been nominated by your respective Organizations, to: articulate, advance, defend and promote the interest of thousands of those members, who are loyal members of those respective Organizations; as well as the meat industry

in our County, generally. In short: you have been appointed to promote the national interests of the meat industry in and of the Republic of Namibia and beyond and not your narrow (at times selfish) individual self interests!

- (b) Remember that: the Republic of Namibia consists of FOURTEEN (14) Administrative Regions and has more than TWO AND A HALF million people. Thus, be broad minded when you execute your national responsibilities as a MeatBoard member. Know the whole Country, called Namibia, as defined in ARTICLE 1(4) of the Namibian Constitution; and NOT only your Region, Village, Constituency or Farm!

- (c) Familiarize yourself, as a member, and collectively as Board, with the contents of the Country's and Government of the Republic for Namibia's applicable: Laws and Policy Documents, e.g.:
 - (i) State-Owned Enterprises Governance Act, 2006 (as amended);
 - (ii) Meat Industry Act, 1981 (As Amended by the Meat Industry Act, 1992);
 - (iii) NAMIBIA 2015 Agriculture Policy;
 - (iv) Vision 2030 Document;
 - (v) NDP5;
 - (vi) Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP);
 - (vii) Policy for the Eradication of Trans-Boundary Animal Diseases in the Northern Communal Areas (NCA's) of Namibia;

- (viii) Common Vision of the Livestock and Meat Industry of Namibia, 2015;
- (ix) Namibia's Industrial Policy, 2012;
- (x) Growth at Home: Namibia's Execution Strategy for Industrialization.

7. In conclusion, and as a matter of further strengthening the message, delivered thus far, let me, leave you with the following quotations:

(a) COMMON VISION OF THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT INDUSTRY OF NAMIBIA:

(i) “the objective of the Common Vision is: to strive towards a common goal for the industry, through converging diverse interests, in a balanced way into a single livestock and meat industry accepted vision and action plans, in the best interest of the industry, as a whole and Namibia at large. The Common Vision addressed FIVE action plans, important to the livestock and Meat Industry:

- Animal Health and Welfare and Food Safety;
- Production;
- Value addition;
- Marketing and Product Trade;
- Industry Consolidation,” (PAGES v-vi; my own underlining for emphasis).

8. Having said the above, let me also remind the esteemed MEATBOARD Members, MeatBoard Staff, Leaders of farmers' Organizations that: twenty seven (27) years after 21 March 1990, our Country is still divided by a Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) into: a World Animal Health Organization (OIE) recognized disease free Southern zone, from which most commercial livestock farming originates and the so-called Northern subsistence farming sector. The presence of Trans Boundary Animal Diseases (TAD's), such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Contagious Bovine Pleuro pneumonia (CBPP), commonly known as lung sickness, are largely responsible for the lack of participation of this important sector of Namibia, in the Agricultural economy of the Country.
9. We are cognisant of the enormous work that is being done, by the MAWF's Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS), in dealing with the combating, prevention and eventual envisaged eradication of Trans Boundary Animal Diseases in the NCA's. The outbreak of FMD in some parts of the NCA's in 2015, was and remains a terrible retrogressive national setback.
10. It was decided by the Cabinet, already in 2015, that: ideally, a FENCE needs to be erected, between Namibia and Angola. Currently, consultations between and with the relevant Political Authorities of the two Countries are ongoing. Only once mutually acceptable agreements would be reached and agreed to, may any proposed mutually agreed to actions, for the erection of the proposed fence, be commenced with.

11. The MeatBoard must continue to render its maximum support to the DVS in this regard; as well as other relevant and needed projects.
12. Thank you very much! Congratulations! I wish you well in executing your national duties and responsibilities. Work as a solid team.