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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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**THE ANHUI FOREIGN ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION (GROUP) COMPANY LIMITED (AFECC) AND JINYU MISSION TO NAMIBIA: WELCOMING STATEMENT BY JOHN MUTORWA, MP AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY (MAWF): TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2015, 14H30, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA.**

1. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, generally; but in particular, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF); through its Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS), I extended a very cordial and warm welcome, to the leaders of the AFECC and Jinyu groups of Companies, to “the Land of the Brave; Namibia; and to the MAWF Head Office, this afternoon.
2. During our recent, 1-2 August 2015, official visit to the People’s Republic of China, we had very fruitful and constructive discussions, with the Leadership of AFECC in Beijing, on 2 August 2015. The reception was quite very warm and cordial! Thank you very much for the hospitality and good care that you have taken of us.
3. The Livestock sector of Namibia remains viable and profitable, continuing to provide employment for the majority of our people, while it is also a source of revenue to and for our economy. Over the recent years, the sector has experienced significant growth, both in terms of quantity, quality and value. Government continues to ensure that the Namibian livestock enjoys the best marketing opportunities possible and the recent announcement of the big lucrative Chinese market, is one such example. Compared to many other developed and developing countries, Namibian beef is now accepted in the European Free Trade Area (EFTA), which

includes the lucrative Norwegian market, the Southern African market and the Chinese market. This access makes Namibian meat one of the most sought after commodities worldwide. As it is a quality product, it gives all of us something to be proud of as a nation, and an instrument for sustainable development.

4. Annually the livestock sector of Namibia spends approximately six hundred million Namibian dollars, to import essential vaccines and pharmaceuticals into the country. This expenditure is necessitated by the fact that we have a growing and vibrant livestock sector composed of approximately 2 million cattle, 4 million goats and 2.6 million sheep. Given our national developmental agenda, called Vision 2030, of becoming an industrialized nation, we are proactively positioning the livestock sector, both in terms of its inputs (vaccines and pharmaceuticals) and its outputs (mutton, beef, hides and skins) to be at the forefront of driving industrialization and economic growth in Namibia. As a result of the obvious growth in the livestock sector, our aim is to attract investment into the livestock vaccine and pharmaceutical industries, in order to ensure long term sustainability and security for the Namibian livestock sector and to position our country to be one day, a net exporter of livestock vaccines and pharmaceuticals to the rest of the world.
5. It is therefore the GRN's, through the MAWF's pleasure and immense honour, to welcome the delegation from AFFECC and JINYU Group to Namibia. This visit is a further step in strengthening the cooperation between the Republic of Namibia and The Peoples' Republic of China, which is embodied in the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed, here in Windhoek in 2012. The purpose of the mission is to explore the possibility on collaboration on the establishment of vaccine production facility in Namibia with major emphasis on the production of Foot and Mouth Disease as well as lung sickness and brucellosis vaccines; to be ideally located in the Northern part of Namibia.
6. The Peoples Republic of China is among the world's largest producers of livestock vaccine, which is a very complicated and expensive undertaking. Nothing about the production of vaccine is

easy. It takes meticulous attention to detail, to design and construct a vaccine production plant, that can optimally produce vaccine, whilst ensuring animal health and environmental safety. Whilst on the other hand, it takes years of research to produce viable vaccine candidates, that can be commercialized and marketed. It is therefore not surprising that such technologies are not readily available for purchase on the commercial market. In fact, most of the livestock vaccine producers in the developing world opt to remain in strategic partnerships with well established manufacturers in the developed world, in order to obtain much needed research and development from the developed world and thus remain relevant and competitive in what they produce.

7. We are therefore pleased to be initiating this relationship between our two countries, which I have no doubt will hopefully lead to many years of mutually beneficial interaction. In August 2015 we had the pleasure to visit the state of the art vaccine production facilities of the Jinyu group in HonHot, in the inner Mongolia province of China. We were informed that they are the leading producers of a number of livestock vaccines in China and particularly for the FMD vaccine. Whilst our strains of virus might differ, we have no doubt that they possess the technical competence to assist us to produce quality vaccine in our country.
8. I should state that the Namibian Government had as far as 2005 identified the production of FMD vaccine as a strategic undertaking. To that extent, we have purchased a 100 hectare plot at Eenhana, in the Ohangwena Region, for the construction of the vaccine production facility and research laboratory. This was included in our Capital project NPC Code 8049, but could not move forward, because we needed a competent technical partner to help us. It is therefore our great pleasure to now engage the AFECC and Jinyu Group to realize, practically, this important national assignment.
9. The need for livestock vaccines cannot be overemphasized, the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in the North Central parts of Namibia in May 2015, is clear evidence, of how an outbreak of a disease like FMD, can disrupt peoples livelihoods, whilst erasing our meager sources of income. We

should remain vigilant and do all in our power, to prevent animal diseases to take a foot hold in our country and thus prevent us from realizing our national vision. We should ensure that the livestock sector is not left behind, when the rest of the country move in unison towards economic emancipation.

10. During the upcoming week, details will emerge on the modalities according to which the vaccine facility will be established. We are aware that several models are operational around the world, such as licensing or Built- Operate and Transfer agreements. The following weeks will therefore be important, to determine if such a plant can be established in Namibia and how this will be done. We will keep the nation updated as to the progress we shall be making.
11. Your visit is thus, really, to familiarize yourselves with the actual practical situation on the ground. To interact with the various Stakeholders on the ground, e.g. Farmers, Business persons, Veterinarians etc. I notice on the programme that, accompanied by your Guests, the officials from and of the DVS, you will physically visit some areas in the North Central Areas of Namibia, notably in the Ohangwena Region.
12. We look forward to the final Report of your visit. I can assure you all, that the findings and recommendations that will be contained in and which will be conveyed by and through the said Report will assist the GRN, through the MAWF, to make the final decisions, with regard to this very urgent and absolutely much needed facility, in our country, in SADC and beyond SADC! Colleagues in the DVS take care of our guests. Treat them well. Once again feel at home in Namibia, your second home, away from your real home-the People's Republic of China (PRC).

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**John MUTORWA, MP**  
**MINISTER**

**TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2015, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA.**

