



**Acceptance Speech by the Permanent Secretary of the
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, Mr. Percy W.
Misika**

**Official handover of frozen bull semen to the Ministry of
Agriculture, Water and Forestry by Dr. Joggie Briedenhann: 09
May 2018**

Director of Ceremonies;

All MAWF Staff present;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen

Namibia, being predominantly a livestock producing country, is one of the few African countries that still has a wide range of livestock breeds and ecotypes which has given rise to a large genetic pool.

This genetic pool is attributed to concerted efforts by livestock farmers who continue to breed and multiply livestock for sustained livelihood.

Namibia has a solid foundation when it comes to livestock production and we owe it to all our livestock breeders and producers. Namibia should continue with the conservation of livestock genetic pool because it is not only for current use but it is a tool we can use to mitigate the effects of climate change for now and in future.

Though relatively a new breed, the Bonsmara breed is one of the locally adapted breeds and is fast becoming popular among cattle farmers in Namibia. The breed can easily adapt to both communal and commercial farming systems, mainly due to its low maintenance and high fertility to mention but a few.

I thank you for that.

Dr Joggie Briedenhann's tireless efforts towards the promotion of the Bonsmara breed have contributed immensely towards the popularity of this prolific breed and are thus highly commendable.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is grateful for your support and willingness to continue contributing towards the Bonsmara breed by freely donating 4000 straws of frozen bull semen from 31 Bonsmara bulls valued at N\$1,200,000.00 or N\$300.00 per straw.

This donation that I am accepting today is not for the Government but it is for the entire Bonsmara farmers. The Ministry will certainly make sure that the semen is put to good use so as to ensure quality offsprings that will contribute to the sustainable development of our meat industry by improving the quality of national herd.

The semen has to be administered through an artificial insemination (AI) process, which is a delicate and expensive process. Therefore, the process requires very good infrastructure, herd management as well as proper control over female animals for it to be successful.

Furthermore, skill full and qualified inseminators are essential for better results. Given this scenario, the Ministry will do everything in ensure that this good quality semen is not wasted.

Directors of Ceremonies,

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and on my own behalf, I would like to express our sincere gratitude and

appreciation to you Dr Briedenhann and your entire team for this generous gesture.

We wish you all the success and strength in your endeavour towards the development of the Bonsmara breed.

I thank you.