



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

SPEECH BY

BERNHARD ESAU, MP

MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

AT THE

NATIONAL FISH CONSUMPTION DAY

GALA DINNER

“Towards a Fish Eating Nation”

(NFCPT)

AT

OMUTHIYA - OSHIKOTO REGION

Friday, 27th September 2019

Hon Henock Kankoshi, Governor of Oshikoto Region;

Omukwanilwa Fillemon Shuumbwa Nangolo, King of Ondonga Community;

Her Worship the Mayor of Omuthiya, Councillor Katrina Uusiku;

His Worship the Mayor of Tsumeb, Councillor Mathew Hangula;

His Worship the Mayor of Oniipa, Councillor Kambonde.....;

Hon Councillor Samuel Shivute, Chairperson of Oshikoto Regional Council;

Other Local and Regional Councillors Present;

Dr Moses Maurihungirire, Executive Director of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, and other Government Officials present;

Mrs Susan Ndjaleka, Chairperson of NFCPT Board of Trustees; and other NFCPT Trustees present;

Mr Victor Pea, CEO of NFCPT, and members of Staff of NFCPT present;

Mr Matti Amukwa, Chairperson of the Hake Association & Confederation of the Fishing Association, and other Captains of Industry Present;

Captains of Industry, and all stakeholders;

Members of the Media;

Distinguished invited Guests;

All Protocols Observed

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Evening

I wish to thank you all for coming in good numbers to join us this evening, here at Omuthiya in Oshikoto Region, as I preside over a noble cause, a Gala Dinner in aid of the people of Oshikoto Region. I wish to thank Honorable Henock Kankoshi, Governor of Oshikoto Region and Her Worship the Mayor of Omuthiya, Councillor Katrina Uusiku, for the warm welcome to our beautiful town of Omuthiya, thank you very much.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I take note that this is the 8th National Fish Consumption Day Gala Dinner being successfully hosted by the National Fish Consumption Promotion Trust (NFCPT). We have hosted similar National Fish Consumption Days in Erongo, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Omusati, Oshana, Kavango West and Kunene Erongo, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Omusati, Oshana, Kavango West and Kunene Regions since 2012 when we began, and we plan to complete the remaining regions in the coming years. This evening we will be deciding on the next Region that will host this event next year in 2020. Allow me to therefore begin my remarks by congratulating the Chairperson, members of Board of Trustees and management of the (NFCPT) for this great achievement -it's a milestone. You have successfully done this event now for 8 times, therefore we can say that this event has come of age – it is part of who we are as a fisheries sector, and a great partnership between the Ministry, the Trust, Industry and our Regions. Congratulations indeed. Omake!

The National Fish Consumption Day is a day to celebrate Namibian fisheries. On this day, we remind ourselves of the nutritional and

economic benefits of eating Namibian fish. These are the main objectives why the Government established the National Fish Consumption Promotion Trust, and hence it is why this day is hosted by the Trust, our special purpose vehicle for this purpose.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the National Fish Consumption promotion Day is preceded by a Gala Dinner, during when the fishing industry, and other members of the business community, and indeed all people of goodwill come together to raise funds for noble cause in the Region where we are holding the Gala Dinner that year. I am excited that this year we are meeting here in Omuthiya, to tell our people of Oshikoto Region that We Care – the Fisheries Sector cares, and as part of the Namibian house, the people of Oshikoto Region must also benefit from our Namibian fisheries. That is why I call upon you all, as industry and business colleagues, and as people of goodwill to give generously as we together join hands to donate to noble causes here in Oshikoto Region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, In May this year, we witnessed the handing over of 1,387 school mattresses valued at Four Hundred and Seventy Eight Thousand, Five Hundred and Ten Namibian dollars (N\$ 478 510.00) and 12 computers valued at Two Hundred and Twenty One Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety Namibian dollars (N\$ 221 490.00) to Kunene Region, which I facilitated during the commissioning of “OPERATION SIDA DI /GOAN” at Kamanjab. Those mattresses and computers were bought from proceeds of a fund-raising Gala Dinner held on 18th November 2018 in the town Opuwo, as part of the NFCD initiative. The

gesture is indeed a demonstration of commitment by stakeholders in the fishing industry to contribute towards the achievement of quality education for our children. I call upon all of us today to surpass our last year's performance on this matter.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am informed that since the Gala Dinner donations started seven years ago to date, NFCPT and stakeholders have raised over N\$ 3.1 million which have been spend on assisting our communities in various regions in Namibia. Let me also clarify that this CSR initiative is by no means the only way that the fishing industry shares the benefits of our fisheries with the wider Namibian community: the industry pays fishing levies, quota fees and taxes, which are in turn distributed through the National Budget to all regions in the country to build roads, schools and other developments. The National Fish Consumption Day donations are therefore a top-up of fisheries sector contribution to society, to emphasise the that that 'we care'.

As I conclude, allow me to say that a culture of national fish consumption is good for local businesses and poverty eradication, in addition to the well-known nutritional benefits. I am sure you will understand this – because most of you are business people: to achieve our national fish consumption target of 20.4 kg fish per person per year requires us to sell about 50,000MT of fish, valued at about N\$ 500 million within various towns in Namibia. We are now at about 50% of this target. If only 5% of this fish trade target could happen in Oshikoto Region, that would be about N\$ 25 million of new business, and the profit margins realized by our

small and medium scale traders here could greatly help to address current poverty and inequality. Local fish trade is therefore a realistic means of addressing livelihoods and food security of our people here in Oshikoto Region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope you are looking forward to tomorrow, as I am, when we will celebrate our Namibian fisheries. I am looking forward to the display of fish and fishery products, the finals of the Bernhard Esau Soccer Tournament, the donations, the cooking and eating of fish. I have asked NFCPT to submit to me the list of all partners, all donors who are working so hard together to make this day a success, because I want to acknowledge them in my remarks tomorrow.

Let us celebrate our Namibian Fisheries,

Let us embrace our people in Oshikoto Region, and show them that we care.

I Thank You.