



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

SPEECH

BY

BERNHARD ESAU, MP

MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

NATIONAL FISH CONSUMPTION DAY

“TOWARDS A FISH EATING NATION”

AT

OMUTHIYA- OSHIKOTO REGION

28th 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 Morning.

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, every year as a sector, and through NFCPT which is our special purpose vehicle, we select one Region in Namibia where we meet to celebrate Namibia fisheries, through promoting consumption of fish nationally. We are therefore here to celebrate today – to celebrate Namibia fisheries by learning how to cook and eat fish, by playing football, by donating to noble causes in various communities here in Oshikoto Region. We are here to promote fish business as a food security option for the people of Oshikoto Region.

Honorable Governor, I am glad we are here in Oshikoto Region this year- because Oshikoto, as part of the Namibia house must also enjoy the benefits of Namibian fisheries. We are also here to show that we care. In this regard, last night I presided over a Gala Dinner for the fishing industry and members of the business community here in Omuthiya, where we received donations and pledges worthN\$ to be used for donations towards noble causes in this Region, as shall be agreed between Regional Leadership and NFCPT.

These donations, among others, are one of the ways of saying that the fisheries sector cares about the people of Oshikoto Region.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Namibia is a major producer of fish in the world, and we want you to eat more fish. Eat more Namibian fish, because it is our fish, and we must be proud about what is ours. Let us not become a Nation that knows how to produce and export fish, but we do not know the taste of our fish. I am informed that today we will have fish tasting, and will be taught skills on how to clean and prepare fish. Fish is the healthiest and most nutritious protein available. It has been proven scientifically that that communities who eat more fish are healthier, suffer less cardiovascular diseases, and less gout. Let us eat more fish.

Ladies and Gentlemen; allow me to also underscore the fact that that our fisheries is an investment opportunity, which can greatly contribute to income generation, food security and poverty alleviation. You can set up a fish shop, and sell fish here in Oshikoto Region. Let us work together with the Ministry, NFCPT and the industry to enable our people to access fish for local trade, and hence promote local fish trade enterprises. I am happy to note that NFCPT has established a spacious fish shop here in Omuthiya, which I am told will be operational within one month. This is a clear statement of our commitment to avail affordable fish to all our people, and promote local fish enterprises

In Conclusion, I would like to congratulate the Namibia Fish Consumption and Promotion Trust for putting together a truly wonderful celebration today. I am eager to eat fish today, enjoy the performances, and to watch the football tournament. I am happy to note that the football tournament, which is named in my honour, has incorporated girls' football this year. This type of

inclusivity, gender sensitivity and empowerment is highly commendable in society, and I look forward to the football tournament.

Let us celebrate our Namibian fisheries today,
Let us invest in it,
and let us protect it.

I Thank you