



**SPEECH BY HONOURABLE DEREK KLAZEN, MP MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND**

**MARINE RESOURCES**

**ON THE OCASSION OF THE INDUCTION WORKSHOP FOR NEW RIGHT**

**HOLDERS IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY**

**HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**AT THE CIVIC CENTRE**

**TOWN HALL MUNICIPALITY OF WALVIS BAY**

**09:00**

Director of Ceremonies

Honourable Neville Andre, Governor of Erongo Region

Your Worship, Councillor Trevino Forbes, Mayor of Walvis Bay

Staff of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

Esteemed Right Holders

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning!

Many if not all of you here this morning must have received and read a letter from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources that starts as follows, and I quote: I under the powers vested in me under Section 33 of the Marine Resources Act, 2000 (Act No. 27 of 2000), grant you a right to harvest for commercial purposes end of quote

This quote is likely to have been followed by the specific species to be harvested and the period allocated for harvesting.

Additionally, you would have noted that the granting of the right was further to be conditioned on the Policy Statement (Guidelines) for the Granting of Rights to Harvest Marine Resources, and further on to the Conditions Pertaining to Holders of Marine Resources Harvesting Rights and Quotas

I am sure that to an extent the first paragraph of that letter conveyed joyous news to you and has brought to a close nights and days of anxiety and uncertainty as since the applications for rights were called you needed to wait for some time before finally you knew where you stood.

Also, with the letter in your hand you would occasionally double check the name of your company in great disbelief that perhaps there was some clerical or some error from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources

And then you proceed to reading the second paragraph and the blight begun ...

And I quote: **Your fishing right holding company is organized as a 20% shareholder in a Joint Venture Company comprising yourself plus four (4) other right holding partners**, end of quote

This single paragraph is known to appear as a deal-breaker to many right holders since they are required to work together with people they did not know before, people with different cultural backgrounds, people with different business ideas and strategies, people with radical ideas. People who are simply Namibian with a desire to making a living for themselves

But working together as a group of right-holders should not necessarily spell trouble but should afford you leverage when negotiating with technical operators, allow you to learn from other right-holders and gaining experiences on how to serve as director of companies amongst other or simply learning another local language.

Conversely, these dynamics often reach boiling point when an unresolved matter affects the optimum and continued operation of the right-holding enterprise.

I however, hold the idea that it is more the absence of guiding principles and a lack of understanding of operational and governance infrastructure that gets people anxious about the future, choosing instead to be un-coupled from their Joint venture formations.

To an extend I feel that most of you feel like you have “been thrown in at the deep end “ without being prepared for it or allowed to do easier work first or being allowed to fail first.

So the questions from many new right holding entrants after receiving a letter awarding rights and one awarding the quota is usually:

Now that I have a fishing right and a fishing quota, what now?

Where do I start? Do I even know anything about fishing?

Will we make money? Do we need to buy a vessel? Can we afford a vessel or how do we ensure that when the season ends and we apply for a new quota we will not be penalized if we did not deliver on our corporate social responsibilities? The questions are as numerous as the stars

Director of Ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen

This is exactly why this session has been organized, to guide you to a path of prosperity in your new found industry of fisheries and ensure that you appreciate this opportunity afforded you as a right holder.

As you will soon learn this program will cover as many topics on the fishing industry ranging from Policy and Legal Framework with specific emphasis on (Conditions of Rights and Quotas) the responsibility to paying fees and levies linked to your quota, the idea and the dynamics of Joint Venture formations and the completion of quota and license applications

Furthermore, you should be comforted by the fact that these sessions shall be followed by an interactive session for questions and discussions

So, you may want to use those sessions to seek as much clarity on these and other issues and engage our very able and very resourceful presenters

In the end, all of us have the same objectives, that of seeing as many people benefiting and living quality lives from our natural resources while stimulating new enterprises, even outside of the fisheries sector in order to ensure that we all leave a great legacy for our children.

A legacy of sustainability, growth and great stewardship of our ocean and marine ecosystems.

So, let's make every minute count!

Director of Ceremonies, ladies and gentlemen

It is now my singular honour to declare the induction session for new right holders 2021, officially open

I wish you all fruitful deliberations

I thank