



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES & MARINE RESOURCES

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

BY

HON. BERNHARD ESAU (MP)

MINISTER OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCE

AT THE

OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE MARINE RESOURCES ADVISORY

COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS: 2016-2019

ROSSMUND LODGE - SWAKOPMUND

24TH NOVEMBER 2016

(All protocols observed)

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen

First, let me take this opportunity to welcome you all and extend my sincere appreciation to you for setting aside your valuable time to join me at this official inauguration of the Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC), a legal entity which is established in accordance with the Marine Resource Act No. 27 of 2000.

I would like, right at the beginning of my address, to register my appreciation to the outgoing Marine Resources Advisory Council 2013-2016 for the dedicated and professional approach that they have displayed during the execution of their responsibilities as members of this important Council. I have greatly treasured your advise to me, which has contributed greatly to the progress we have made over the past 3 years. Particularly, in addition to your hard work in stabilising TAC setting system and routine advise to me, I wish to underscore your exemplary performance in the following areas:

- a) The Response of Namibia on the issue of seals, particularly with regard to the on-going court case in Geneva against the EU ban on Namibian seal products; and
- b) The registration of several previously foreign flagged vessels which are now Namibian flagged.

On behalf of the Government and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, I say thank you to all for your service. I particularly wish to thank the following past members who have since left the Council on account of expiry of the 3-year term:

- 1) Please join me in thanking, post-humoursly, the immediate past Chairperson of the Marine Resources Advisory Council, our dear former Permanent Secretary, Ms Ulitala Hivelua, who passed on about two weeks ago;
- 2) Mr Festus Mugunda, the CEO of Standard Bank Namibia;

- 3) Ms Sharon Neumbo, the Chairperson of the Midwater Trawlers Association; and
- 4) Mr Paulus Kainge of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to invite these dear colleagues, or their representatives, to join me at the front for a token of appreciation from the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources:

.....(pause).....

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Ladies and gentlemen, as earlier observed, the Marine Resources Advisory Council is one of the most important entities established under the Marine Resources Act (Act 27 of 2000). It is specifically established to advise the Minister with regard to implementation of the Act. Specifically, the Council is tasked with the responsibility of advising the Minister on:

- 1) The setting of Total Allowable Catches (TACs) (Section 39(2))
- 2) The setting of levies and fees (section 44)
- 3) The expenditure of fisheries Observer fund (Section 46(3))
- 4) The expenditure of Marine Resources Fund (Section 45(4); and
- 5) and any matter which the Minister refers to the advisory council for investigation and advice (Section 24)

As you can see from this long list, a properly performing Marine Resources Advisory Council is critical to the successful development of the Fisheries Sector in Namibia.

This morning, I have issued letters of appointment to the members of the incoming Marine Resources Advisory Council, in terms of Section 25 of the Marine Resources Act, 2000. In making the appointments, I have, in terms of this Act, put together persons of different skills and experiences which I believe are essential in the decision making process on the variety of issues that will be presented to the Council.

I have also required the new Council members to sign performance conditions necessary to ensure integrity, transparency and accountability, which are part of the core values of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. I

acknowledge, ladies and gentlemen, that decision making process is not easy, especially when such decision affects sustainability of our marine resources, economic viability of fisheries businesses, and livelihoods of thousands of Namibians. I therefore urge all stakeholders in the fishing sector, particularly the fishing industry, staff members of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, development partners involved in fisheries to support this new Marine Resources Advisory Council so that they may deliver on their responsibilities.

I require the new council to familiarise themselves with the regulatory framework on marine fisheries, particularly the marine Resources Act (2000) as amended in 2015, which I am informed is part of the information package that you have received this morning. I also advise that you familiarise yourselves with the structure of the marine fishery, all the stakeholders, and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. In this way, you will be able to make informed decisions in your deliberations, and therefore add value to effective governance of this important subsector of our economy.

I urge the Council through the Chairperson to ensure that the Governance Framework for the Council which has just been developed, is operationalised as soon as possible. This will ensure orderly and disciplined approach to the way that you will be transacting your business as Council members.

As I conclude, I wish to congratulate the Council members as you commence your important task. I want you to rest assured that you have my support at all times as you undertake your responsibilities, and that my office is open for consultations on any relevant matters you may wish to discuss with me. I also wish to thank staff members of the Ministry for the hard work you have put into the preparation of relevant documents necessary for Council business, and logistical facilitation of Council members. Keep up this good work.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my honour and pleasure to declare the 2016-2019 Marine Resources Advisory Council officially inaugurated.

I thank You.