REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HON. NATANGUE ITHETE,

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES, MINES AND ENERGY

ON THE OCCASSION OF THE OPENING SESSION OF THE MINING EXPO 2025

05 August 2025 **WINDHOEK**

Your Excellency, Dr. Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Angola.

Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament,

President of the Chamber of Mines, Mr. George Botshiwe,

Captains of the Mining Industry,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is good to see all of you at this prestigious event—my first Mining Expo in my capacity as Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy.

Let me start by congratulating the Chamber of Mines for organizing this Mining Expo and Conference for the 12th year running. This platform has grown to become one of the most important industry events in our country, offering a space for engagement, networking and for reflection on the trajectory of one of our most critical sectors.

The theme of this year's Expo is ***"Mining for Namibia's Future: Job Creation, Local Empowerment, and Economic Transformation"***. This is appropriate or timely for the Namibia we want.

Namibia's minerals are a national asset. They are our hope for social progression and improved livelihood. It is therefore our collective responsibility to ensure that the exploitation of these resources results in tangible benefits for all Namibians. Under my leadership, the Ministry is prioritising policy frameworks that strengthens local ownership, builds capacity, and promotes value addition.

We are currently reviewing the Minerals Bill and will soon commence stakeholder consultations, especially in key regions where exploration and mining are taking place. This process is

essential to ensure that our laws are fit-for-purpose and reflect the ambitions of an equitable and modern mining industry.

Furthermore, we are actively consulting with industry stakeholders on mechanisms that will promote 51% Namibian ownership in new mining ventures. We believe that local empowerment is not only a matter of social justice, but also a cornerstone for long-term stability and sustainability in the sector.

Among all these good developments, there are several licences issued where no activity has commenced. This must change, because the mineral rights are granted with the intention of production. The Ministry, together with the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB), is open to constructive dialogue to resolve legitimate challenges. However, we will not tolerate the hoarding of licences for purposes unrelated to national development. To this end, our Ministry has already issued notices to non-compliant mineral rights holders and will soon engage them.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namibia welcomes serious investors—those who are ready to explore, develop, produce, and reinvest in our economy.

The Government's strategic priorities remain clear: value addition, beneficiation, local content development, skills transfer, and employment creation. These are not just policy buzzwords—they are the pillars upon which inclusive and sustainable growth must be built.

Let us continue our partnership based on trust, transparency, and a shared vision for Namibia. I am committed to driving a transparent and credible administration within the Ministry, as we build investor confidence and public trust alike.

As we move forward, I issue a simple call to action: Let us partner for progress. Let us collaborate across sectors—government, industry, and communities—to ensure that our mineral wealth is

extracted to achieve transformative broad-based prosperity for our people.

Together, we can mine for Namibia's future. Together we can build a true legacy that uplifts the lives of those on the ground.

It is not business as usual; therefore, it can not be corporate social responsibility as usual!

Let those in Okangwati, Okankolo, Tsunkwe, Uis and the most remote areas of our country feel the impact of our minerals.

I challenge all of us here today to make a real difference:

- ✓ Let us invest in education through targeted scholarship programmes that give children from mining communities access to quality learning and brighter futures.
- ✓ Let us provide subsidised housing to mine workers to improve their quality of life and foster community stability and dignity.
- ✓ Let us establish and support clinics to ensure healthcare is accessible, responsive, and within reach for workers and surrounding populations.
- ✓ Let us subsidise essential services, such as electricity, for vulnerable and historically disadvantaged communities living near mining operations.

Dare to be bold, intentional and more impactful!

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let us mine not only for profit, but for our people. Let us forge a future where the benefits of Namibia's natural wealth are shared widely and equitably.

Thank you.