



MAIDEN SPEECH BY GAUDENTIA KROHNE (MP)

DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES, MINES, AND ENERGY

9 APRIL 2025

PARLIAMENT

By: Gaudentia Kröhne, member of Parliament
Deputy Minister of Industries, Mines and
Energy.

Honourable Speaker,

Deputy Speaker,

Distinguished Honourable Members of this August House,

And the Namibian nation

My name is Gaudentia Kröhne, grew up on a village called Tsas and later relocate to KHP, coming from the dusty streets of Tseibosetse. It is with great humility and a sense of deep responsibility that I stand before you today to deliver my maiden speech. I am honoured to have been entrusted with this opportunity to serve the Namibian Nation as a member of Parliament and Deputy Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy.

First of all, allow me to express my profound appreciation to the President of the Republic of Namibia Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, for noticing and recognising my potential and appointing me as Deputy Minister of Industries, Mines and Energy. I am deeply grateful for the confidence you have placed in me, and I assure Her Excellency, my colleagues in government, and the Namibian people that I will dedicate myself to the task with commitment, integrity, and diligence.

Today marks the beginning of a journey—one that I embark on with a commitment to service above self, accountability to those who

placed their trust in me, and an unrelenting pursuit of progress for all Namibians.

Dr Kwame Nkuruma, a Pan Afrikanist to the core, a visionary, a high achiever and an exceptional leader once said "Countrymen and women, the task ahead is great indeed, and heavy is the responsibility; and yet it is a noble and glorious challenge – a challenge which calls for the courage to dream, the courage to believe, the courage to dare, the courage to do, the courage to envision, the courage to fight, the courage to work, the courage to achieve – to achieve the highest excellencies and the fullest greatness."

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members

We are privileged to serve at a time of both great challenges and immense opportunities. Our nation's economy, like many others, has faced headwinds in recent years. The impact of global economic shifts, coupled with internal structural challenges, necessitates bold and decisive action. I acknowledge the Governments unwavering dedication to fostering socio-economic growth and development in the country and pledge my support in working with other stakeholders in achieving the set developmental initiatives.

As Deputy Minister of Industries, Mines, and Energy, I recognize the critical role our sector plays in driving Namibia's social and economic growth, creating jobs, and securing Namibia's energy future. The 2025–26 Budget Statement outlines key priorities for our nation, and I am committed to ensuring that our industries, mining sector, and energy policies align with sustainable development goals. The Minister of Finance has projected a GDP growth of 4.5 percent in 2025 and 4.7 percent in 2026. Therefore, we remain positive and resolute in sharing experiences and learning from best practices that would propel Namibia forward.

Namibia is blessed with vast mineral resources and an emerging energy sector that holds great promise. However, it is not enough to simply extract these resources—we must ensure that they contribute meaningfully to national development. Our vision must be directed to creating a sustainable economy that will counter national and international challenges such as climate change, food security, gender equity, persisting poverty and inequality, geopolitical tensions and human rights violations.

As a member of this August house and Deputy Minister I shall work closely with stakeholders to:

- Promote responsible mining practices that benefit both investors and local communities.

- Support value addition and local beneficiation to maximize economic benefits.
- Strengthen Namibia's energy sector by advancing renewable energy initiatives, ensuring energy security, and making electricity more accessible and affordable for all.

By doing so, we can contribute to national initiatives that aim at creating more jobs, empowering local businesses, and reducing our dependence on imports.

Industrial growth is a key driver of economic resilience. We must foster an environment where Namibian businesses can thrive. That means:

- Investing in local manufacturing and processing industries.
- Enhancing support for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
- Ensuring policies that attract both domestic and foreign investments in our industries.

Industrial growth requires everyday essentials that drive economies and fuels regional trade. Namibia's transformation from Independence to this very day was possible through strategy, investment and policies that support growth.

Namibia's industrialization efforts are influenced by the broader global economic landscape and therefore our space in International and regional political economy should be guided by agreements and protocols such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement which was signed in 2018 and ratified ~~it~~ in February 2019. Subsequently on 21 November 2022, Namibia officially launched Namibia's National Strategy and Implementation Plan for the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) for the period 2022-2027, aiming to enhance domestic production capacities and competitiveness. However, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, skilled labour shortages, and competition from more industrialized nations must be addressed to fully realize the benefits of ^{African Continental Free Trade Area.} ~~(AfCFTA).~~ Strategic investments in infrastructure, capacity building, and policy reforms are essential for Namibia to leverage AfCFTA ^{African Continental Free Trade Area.} effectively and achieve its industrialisation goals.

Honourable members,

Having taken note of that;

The Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy is tasked with enhancing sustainable social and economic development by creating an enabling and conducive environment for the benefit of all citizens. This will be carried out through creating enabling policies, legislation and strategies to inter alia;

- Ease ~~the~~ of doing business
- Creation of industries
- Support of micro, small and medium enterprise,

- Expansion and development of export markets and products.

Furthermore, with the guidance of my Minister Honourable Natangwe lthethe, the Ministry intends to further enhance, promote and facilitate industrialization in the country in terms of varied economic activities, manufacturing and value addition by providing Industrial Infrastructure for economic activities in different regions.

In its working mandate the Ministry further aims to assist Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises by procuring for them productive equipment to boost their capacity, improve the quality of their products and competitiveness, create employment and contribute to the growth of the national Gross Domestic Product.

This will subsequently enhance productivity and competitiveness in both local and international markets of selected middle-level existing enterprises.

Honourable Speaker

Honourable Members

I look forward to engaging government, the private sector, and international partners to drive Namibia's industrialization agenda forward.

Honourable Speaker,

As representatives of all Namibians in this August House, it is our duty to lead by example. The people of Namibia expect

transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership. I am committed to upholding these values in my assigned portfolio and beyond.

As I stand before you today, I am filled with hope—hope for a Namibia that is prosperous, inclusive, and just. A Namibia where every citizen has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Let us work together—across political divides, beyond personal ambitions, and with a shared commitment to national progress. Our actions today will define the legacy we leave for future generations.

In conclusion,

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

I am ready to serve. I am here to listen, to learn, and to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of our great nation.

I thank you.

^{therefore}
I pledge my full support to the
2025/2026 Appropriation Bill.