



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, WATER AND LAND REFORM

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Maiden Speech to Parliament as Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Land Reform By Honourable Ruthy Nchinzobe Masake.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, and Distinguished Guests, it is with great honour and deep humility that I stand before this distinguished House today as the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Land Reform. I am Ruthy Nchinzobe Masake born and raised in the Zambezi Region, I am here representing our mighty SWAPO Party,

The party that has signed me to represent it into this August house.

This moment represents a significant milestone in my journey, and I am profoundly grateful for the trust and confidence placed in me by Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah President of the Republic of Namibia, and, I want to use this opportunity to congratulant her being

the first female president in our republic above all, the people of our beloved nation.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the citizens of this country for the mandate they have entrusted to the Swapo Party. I also acknowledge and salute the invaluable contributions of our farmers, fishermen, and rural communities, whose unwavering dedication to agriculture, water management, and land stewardship is the backbone of our economy. Their resilience, hard work, and innovation will continue to guide the policies we develop, promote, and implement. Agriculture, fisheries, water, and land are the fundamental pillars of our nation's economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability. These sectors are not only crucial for ensuring food security but also for providing livelihoods to millions of our people. In the face of global challenges such as climate change, dwindling natural resources, and heightened competition, we bear a collective responsibility to strengthen these sectors in a way that is sustainable, inclusive, and forward-thinking.

Agriculture is the heart of our nation, supporting families, communities, and local economies across the country. It is clear that the future of agriculture lies in embracing modernization and sustainable practices. As such, we must leverage innovation and technology to enhance productivity while protecting our land and water resources. A key priority will be the continued empowerment of our farmers, particularly women and youth, through improved access to markets, modern farming techniques, and financial support.

The fisheries sector plays a crucial role in food security and provides essential livelihoods to coastal communities and the nation as a whole.

To address challenges such as overfishing, climate change, and infrastructure gaps, we must adopt responsible fishing practices, strengthen regulatory frameworks, and invest in the sustainable management of our marine resources. These actions are vital to ensuring the long-term prosperity of this sector for future generations.

Water, our most precious resource, requires careful and effective management, especially as we confront the pressures of urbanization and shifting climate patterns. Our approach to water management will prioritize policies aimed at ensuring equitable access to clean, safe water for all citizens, enhancing water conservation, and promoting responsible usage across all sectors.

Land reform remains a central issue in shaping the socio-economic landscape of our nation. I am committed to advancing land justice, ensuring that land reform programs are fair and transparent, and contributing to sustainable agricultural development. We will focus on promoting the efficient and equitable use of land, particularly empowering marginalized communities, including women and youth, while safeguarding the land rights of all citizens. In carrying out these responsibilities, I pledge to work closely with my colleagues in the Ministry and engage with stakeholders across both the public and private sectors. Our collective goal will be to create an enabling environment in which farmers, fishermen, water users, and landowners can thrive without compromising the resources and opportunities available to future generations.

While I am fully aware of the significant challenges before us, I am confident in the immense potential of our nation. Through determination, innovation, and collaborative efforts, we will overcome these obstacles and lay the foundation for sustainable development, food security, and shared prosperity.

In conclusion, I reaffirm my unwavering commitment to the people of this country. Together, we will work tirelessly to ensure that every citizen can benefit from a sustainable agricultural economy, responsible fisheries, secure access to water, and equitable land reform. Together, we will forge a future where agriculture, fisheries, water, and land reform serve as the catalysts for progress, inclusivity, and prosperity for all.

Thank you.