

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



**STATEMENT BY HON. TJEKERO TWEYA,
MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION, TRADE AND SME WITH THE
POULTRY INDUSTRY**

Monday, 9th March 2020, Windhoek

NamPower Convention Centre at 14H30

- Good afternoon esteemed members of the Poultry Industry,
 - Members of the Media,
 - Distinguished Invited Guests,
 - Good afternoon Namibia!
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Let me express my sincere appreciation and thanks to all of you having responded positively to the invitation of the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development [MITSMED] for us to engage and address some aspects affecting the Poultry Industry of Namibia.

Towards the end of lastly year, I have addressed a media regarding the Poultry Import Restrictions and Quota Allocations.

As you are rightfully aware, the Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade & SME Development instituted a quantitative restriction on the importation of poultry products into Namibia from the 6th May 2013 through a Cabinet Decision No. 1st /12.02.13/009 [Act No. 5167 of 2013]. The Scheme initially made provision for the importation of a maximum of 600 tons of poultry products per month that was further increased to a maximum of 900 tons per month on the 1st November 2013; and another increase to 1500 tons on 15th May 2015 respectively.

This was an interim measure considered to allow the local industry to penetrate the Namibian poultry consumer market and to protect the Namibian poultry industry against foreign dumping and unfair trade.

The goal was to achieve the “Growth at Home” strategy aiming to upgrade, modernize and add value to raw material. The goal was also to ensure market access at home and abroad and to create a conducive environment for the Namibian industry to grow exponentially and to achieve high levels of productivity in the local market.

The Ministry subsequently received complaints from importers regarding the administration of the poultry quota by the Meat Board of Namibia and a legal opinion was sought from the Office of the Attorney General [AG] on 21st February last year.

The AG provided an opinion advising the Minister to withdraw the authorization of administering the poultry scheme from the Meat Board of Namibia. As a result, the Meat Board of Namibia surrendered its authority on 30th June 2019, and the delegated authority was returned to MITSMED under

the Import/Export and Trade Measures subdivision, effective from the 1st July 2019.

The opinion of the AG triggered a legal challenge brought in front of the Namibian Government, Meat Board and Namibia Poultry Industry by the South African Poultry Association and the matter is in court since 2014. This created uncertainty in the market environment and investors were unsure about the legal instrument which created the lack of legal certainty.

Be that as it may, as a way to seize the opportunities that are presented by the nascent poultry industry as well as addressing the challenges facing the sector; the Government agreed to collaborate with pertinent stakeholders to develop a Namibian Poultry Industry Master Plan. The industry currently has 50 registered import companies, 12 medium and large scale producers as well as 712 micro and small scale local producers including entrepreneurs.

The objective of the Master Plan is generally to improve the competitiveness of the Namibian Poultry Industry including egg production, day old chicks, broiler production as well as value added products.

It is aimed at increasing local production, import substitution, poverty alleviation, job creating and improving living standard and, above all, contributing to food security.

In addition, the Master Plan will also identify issues and challenges facing the Poultry Industry that led to the production gap between the different producers and accordingly recommending mitigation measures to minimize such and grow the sector exponentially.

The Plan will, thus have focus on five [5] main pillars aimed at addressing the following:

- 1] SME Development with over 740 SMEs that are currently involved in the production of eggs and broilers,
- 2] Development of standards for production as well as consumer welfare,
- 3] Develop tools and instruments that are of a trade policy nature to assist the industry,
- 4] Assessment of challenges that will enhance the competitiveness of the industry such as input costs, utilities, land, feed, shelf space, etc.,
- 5] To expand the industry; the Plan will explore how the production can be maximized in order to meet the domestic demand as well as supplying export markets.

Various stakeholders have been identified for the development of the Master Plan and they include Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade & SME

Development, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry and the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. It also consists of the poultry producers [the SMEs and large ones, importers [large and small], regulators such as the Namibia Standards Institute [NSI] and the Namibian Competition Commission, the Namibia Trade Forum, the Namibian Agricultural Trade Forum, MeatBoard, Namibia Industrial Development Agency and NAB.

Namibia's approach to responding to issues that address socio-economic development are largely homegrown. Therefore, the Master Plan will be developed with emphasis on cascading and integrating the high level initiatives into workable programmes for the industry; as well as with consideration to regional, central and production for international markets.

As the way forward, during the 1st Task Team Meeting held on the 5th March 2020, five [5] pillars had been identified and a study will be conducted to provide factual information to support the working groups of each pillar.

The deadline set for the finalization of the Master Plan is six [6] months to be submitted to the Minister of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development, no later than 30th September 2020.

In essence, the terms of reference of this Committee is to develop the rules of procedure, monitoring prices [farm gate and retail], collecting statistics, identify a champion to ensure unity of vision and enforcement and to develop the Poultry Industry Master Plan.

I thank you for your kind attention!

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