



**MOTIVATION SPEECH BY HON NATANGUE
ITHETE, MP
CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION**

**FOCUSING ON THE BENCHMARK STUDY
VISIT TO ANGOLA
HELD IN AUGUST 2023.**

April 2024

**Parliament Chamber
WINDHOEK**

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Members,

I rise to motivate yet another report of the Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration, this one focusing on the Benchmark Study Visit to Angola held in August 2023.

The benchmark visit was a follow-up on a comprehensive review of the Vision 2030 and the National Development Plans (NDPs) by the Committee on 29 August – 2 September 2022. In the workshop, stakeholders presented to the Committee a comprehensive analysis of implementation outcomes, offering insightful assessment of processes, procedures, current achievements, with respect to the targets, strategies, and outcomes from NDPs to NDP5 and HPP I and II. The stakeholders also made significant observations on what can be done by the end 2030 to facilitate the realisation of Vision 2030.

The Workshop was very much concerned about the slowdown and stagnation of the economy since 2015 and

inadequate progress in manufacturing. Furthermore, barriers to industrialization and trade enhancement were identified, ranging from outdated laws and regulations to inadequate coordination in planning and implementation for joint projects, fragmented business support programs, and insufficient support through taxation and non-tax-based investments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the insights gained during the study visit to Angola, the Committee puts forth the following recommendations to this august Assembly:

POLICY REFORMS FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION:

The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade should advocate for policy reforms to streamline laws and regulations, encourage inter-sectoral linkages, and enhance investment support mechanisms to boost manufacturing and industrialization in Namibia.

EDUCATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT:

The Ministries responsible for education and higher education must propose policy reforms aimed at improving access to vocational and technical education, improve the quality of vocational and technical training, reduce rural-urban educational disparities; and aligning the education system with the needs of industrial development.

SME SUPPORT AND INFORMAL SECTOR INTEGRATION:

Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade should strengthen policies to empower and support SMEs, leveraging the potential of the informal sector to bridge the rural-urban divide and contribute to economic growth.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROMOTION:

Recommend the adoption of strategic investment promotion approaches, similar to Angola's, to attract foreign investors and promote local industries, particularly in priority sectors.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR INDUSTRIAL

ZONES:

Advocate for policies that support the establishment of industrial zones with robust infrastructure, access to energy

and water, housing solutions, and transport connectivity to boost industrial growth.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION STRATEGY:

The Committee recommends strategies to diversify Namibia's economy through encouraging sustainable growth by investing in agriculture, manufacturing, and other sectors.

STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION AND ALIGNMENT:

Advocate for collaboration and alignment between various government ministries, private sector, and stakeholders to ensure a cohesive and effective approach towards achieving Vision 2030.

BUDGETARY ALLOCATION FOR TOLANA-LUANDA LAND

Given the crucial role of this initiative in promoting Namibian products and driving economic growth, the Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade must prioritize securing budgetary allocations for the Trade Hub's development. Efforts should be ramped up to expedite ongoing discussions to address the financial shortfall. Additionally, conducting proper feasibility studies and cost-

benefit analyses is advised to optimize resource usage and enhance the project's impact.

With these remarks, I now have the honour to submit the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration to this august House for consideration, discussion and adoption.

I SO MOVE HONOURABLE SPEAKER,