



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

KEYNOTE STATEMENT

BY

HONOURABLE PENDUKENI IIVULA-ITHANA, MP

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION

**AT THE LAUNCH OF THE UPGRADE ELECTRONIC BORDER
CONTROL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

6 SEPTEMBER 2017

HKIA, WINDHOEK

Director of Ceremonies

Hon Ministers and Deputy Ministers

Ambassador Patrick Nandago: PS

Chiefs of Services

Directors of Syntex Technologies

Senior Government Officials

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Media, Good Afternoon!

On the 30th August 2016, we, the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and Syntex Technologies (PTY) Ltd, as the service provider converged at Havani Hotel to launch the E-Border Control Management System Upgrade Project as some of you may recall. Today, just a year after the launch of the system upgrade, we are gathered here to witness the launch of the product of our joint efforts and collaboration in the undertaking to produce what we about to unveil.

Director of Ceremonies,

Ladies and gentlemen.

The mission of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration is to **“Manage the National Population Register and to Facilitate Lawful Migration”** and in the same vein, our vision is:

“To Register the Population and to Manage Migration in a manner that is rated amongst the Best in the World”. That is the vision we hold for this critical Ministry where we all belong to from the cradle to the grave as we casually refer to it. In actualizing that vision, we are constantly required to improve what we do and how we do what we do. Thanks to the technology that our work is made much easier.

Director of Ceremonies

Ladies and Gentlemen

The world today has become a global village with improved technology and transportation infrastructures. Consequently, the world is experiencing unprecedented flow of persons migrating for various reasons and facilitated by modern transportation systems. While benefit also accrues from the movement of persons, particularly in the area of migration and development, there are also associated challenges that need to be managed and mitigated. These include, but not limited to, cross border crimes, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and terrorism. It therefore requires a shift from the traditional way of managing migration to a more risk approach practice facilitated by information gathering and intelligence.

For these reasons, the need to improve on our border control infrastructure was identified. The system we have acquired now captures the biometrics of a person such as face for facial recognition and

fingerprints. With this modernisation, we expect to improve on collection of statistics, data storage and mining and bringing flexibility in connectivity with approved stakeholders. As result, the operations of all our law enforcement agencies can be enhanced by the new system as it will help identify people even if they change their names because the fingerprints will never change. The conclusion of this project surely will have significant improvement in the field of managing and facilitating lawful Migration and will contribute to the furtherance of the turnaround strategy this Ministry has successfully implemented just a few years ago.

Hon Ministers

Ladies and Gentlemen

The road to the success we are celebrating today was not a smooth one. The project implementation coincided with the economic crunch as we have experienced it since the last financial year to date. This resulted in slowdown in the availability of funds and hence some targets were not met on time. Despite that however, our technology partner, Syntex Technologies (PTY) Ltd did not down tools. This is commitment and patriotism a Namibian company ought to show and we applaud Syntex Technologies (PTY) Ltd from the bottom of our hearts. Therefore, my thanks and appreciations go to the company and its top management.

Hon Ministers

Ladies and Gentlemen

On 13th April this year, I was promised by the joint project team that the Go-Live date would be the 1st September 2017. I can confirm that indeed from that date Hosea Kutako International Airport switched over to the new system with the rest of the border posts to follow suit. This, signifies the successful joint project execution between the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration and the service provider, Syntex Technologies (PTY) Ltd, a local company. Let me use this opportunity to thank the project team and all the stakeholders who have played a role in this undertaking, for their dedication to service in actualizing this project.

In conclusion, allow me to repeat myself by emphasizing the fact that, a system can only be as good and effective as its user is. Its efficiency and success lie in the hands of the users, and that is our esteemed Immigration Officers and other law enforcement agencies assigned to this area of operation. Let us make these facilities contribute to the attainment of the Vision 2030, National Development Plans and the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP).

Finally, and for what I am invited here to perform, it now gives me pleasure and privilege to declare the Electronic Border Control Management System officially launched.

I thank you!