



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**MINISTRY OF POVERTY ERADICATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE  
DIRECTORATE OF PLANNING AND STRATEGIES**

**Remarks at the Occasion of Receiving Donation from African Deli**

**By**

**Hon. Bishop (*Emeritus*) Zephania Kameeta, MP**

**Minister of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare**

**11 February 2019**

*Reverend Aino Kapewangolo, Honourable Deputy Minister,*

*Ms. Esther Lusepani, Executive Director/Permanent Secretary,*

*Mr Ron Glen Spyron, Chief Executive Officer of African Deli*

*Dear Staff Members,*

*Members of the Media*

*All protocol observed,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Good Morning,

It is my honor and pleasure this morning to receive on behalf of the Namibian nation this donation from African Deli. This donation illustrates part of the idea in formation of the food bank as an institution that will receive food donations from the private sector, international donors, individuals and communities at large for distribution to the poor and needy in the country. At the moment, Government is shouldering this burden on a monthly basis, therefore it is a relief to see the private sector, in this case African Deli come on board to assist government in this regard.

The establishment of the food bank in Namibia has its origins in a Cabinet decision of 2013 at that time led by his Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob. Its main initial purpose was to collect, purchase and safely distribute food to the needy and most vulnerable members of the Namibian society. Since its humble beginnings in April 2016, the foodbank has grown to cover over 17 000 beneficiaries in 6 regions and would be rolled out to the entire country June 2019. The food bank beneficiaries comprises of mostly women, who are unemployed but still responsible for caring for their families, the sick or people with chronic illnesses, the elderly who have the burden of looking

after their grandchildren or orphans. Therefore targeting the most vulnerable members of our society.

**Master of ceremonies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The concept of food bank does not only consist of food hand outs but will be re-engineered to include special case management and graduation model programmes. The beneficiaries will be introduced to income generating programmes, in order to graduate from food hand outs and generate income to sustain themselves.

As part of the resolutions of the second land Conference, OMAS were urged to procure local products. The Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social welfare in this regard engaged stakeholders such as Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, AMTA, AGRIBUSDEV, NNFU and NAB, to strategize on how address this objective. At the moment, the Ministry has engaged AGRIBUSDEV in the supply of maize meal we are also engaging our suppliers of food parcels to include wherever possible locally manufactured or packed food items such as the Matangara's we are receiving today.

I had the honor of visiting the very impressive factory of our benefactor African Deli last year. I was impressed with innovation of this product. I am informed we are receiving 13585 boxes of the product the equivalent of N\$1 078 836.00. We are indeed very grateful and I can assure you that it will be distributed to needy members of our society.

**Master of ceremonies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It should however be noted that the donation we are witnessing here today doesn't mean or imply that this is the only way to eradicate poverty. We need to ensure that we encourage and educate our people, to send children to school. Those with skills must be identified and be employed or employ others, those with resources must create sustainable opportunities for the rest, and deploy their resources to the less privileged. These are some of the important steps towards poverty eradication.

I must share with you that we also observe that in order to address the expectations of our people, we need to join hands within government and private sector and communities, to each play a part. It is thus the collaboration of our activities that is critical to meeting the expectations of our people, and also crucial to the victory of the war against poverty.

**Master of ceremonies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I must complement the African Deli having made this donation possible. The Presidents call in eradicating poverty in all forms by all Namibians is surely making progress as this call is heard by even our own local companies such as the African Deli that was founded in 2013 with the aim of providing cost effective, tasty prepared food and packaging solutions that are consumer friendly and only been in existence for over 5 years and they decided to contribute to this noble initiative and to make sure that no Namibia goes to bed hungry.

**Master of ceremonies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am sure that this donations made will surely bring happiness and dignity to a number of communities and individuals, who are distressed and deprived of any hope to life.

I wish to conclude by reiterating our appreciation once again to all those that have already made pledges and we encourage more Namibians to do more to lend a helping hand to their fellow countrymen that are dire need of assistance. This generous donations made thus far, are as a result of a direct response to His Excellency call for all Namibians to join in this noble task for a better Namibia.

In ending I would like call upon other benefactors to follow suit and donate to the food bank. The food bank is in touch with several needy organisations in the country and serves as a centre where food can be distributed further. For those benefactors who want to donate cash, the Ministry does receive cash donations through an established bank account, the details can be obtained at our offices.

Allow me to conclude by emphasizing that every little step and effort to address hunger and poverty matters. We must invite others to join and play their part.

I thank you for your attention.