



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**REMARKS BY HON. NATANGUE ITHETE,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES,
MINES AND ENERGY
ON THE OCCASSION OF THE OPENING SESSION OF THE GAS
AND OIL CONFERENCE 2025**

13 August 2025

MERCURE HOTEL, WINDHOEK

Your Excellency, Dr. Netumbo Ndemupelila Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia,

Honourable Ministers, Members of Parliament, and Senior Government Officials,

Ms. Kornelia Shilunga, Presidential Advisor and Head of the Upstream Unit in the Presidency.

Ms. Nangula Uandja, The Chief Executive Officer of Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Representatives of the Economic Association of Namibia, the Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board,

the Hanns Seidel Foundation, NAMCOR, and SNC Incorporated,

Industry leaders, investors, partners,

Members of the medias and fellow Namibians,

Good Morning.

Welcome you to the third edition of the Namibia Oil and Gas Conference, and to the land of the braves, for those visiting from across the borders.

Today, we are gathered at a defining moment in our nations and Southern African's history. Our recent offshore

discoveries—an estimated 11 billion barrels of oil and 2.2 trillion cubic feet of gas represent a generational opportunity to shape the destiny of our economy, empower our communities, and establish Namibia and Southern Africa as one of the most promising energy frontiers on the continent and the globe.

The theme, *“From exploration to Action: Positioning Namibia as the Next Energy Frontier”*, is very true. I, however, want to expand it and say, **“From exploration to Action: Positioning Southern Africa as the Next Energy Frontier”**, because the hope and excitement that Namibia’s oil and gas discovery brought is not just hope for Namibians, it is hope for Africa especially Southern Africa.

If managed well, these resources can be key enabler for industrialisation, infrastructure growth, skills development, and poverty eradication in the region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am emphasizing on the Southern Africa’s perception because I believe it is now time to replicate our forefathers’ unity of purpose that liberated our nations politically, to liberate the same nations economically.

Our President Her Excellence Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah demonstrated the importance of the united

Southern African in her visit to neighbouring countries as her first undertaking in office. This discovery demands collective actions, discipline, long-term vision, and courage from all of us, because development is not a one-man show, it is rather multifaced.

The big turnout of participants here today is encouraging indeed. Let us foster working relationships, collective strategic plans of actions toward a realisation of Namibia and African as leader in the oil and gas industries.

I am calling on unity of purpose because we have seen it before, nations rich in oil and gas that become poorer in spirit, divided in society, and became victims of their own resources. The “resource curse” destroys economies, collapse institutions, harm environment and leaves the people, the rightful owners of the resource worse off than before. Namibia will not follow that path. We refuse to become another cautionary tale.

We must take a stand to manage, guide our offshore discovery jealously, and be a model country that translates oil and gas discovery into a catalyst for peace, unity and prosperity. Let our future generations sing songs of praise to all of us here today for putting in place legal frameworks and operational tools that will ensure there is no mismanagement of these precious resources.

It is important to note that oil and gas have potential to generate up to N\$ 7.7 billion per year in government revenue through royalties and taxes.

Our government's pledge is clear:

- Every barrel, every cubic foot, must translate into jobs, infrastructure, and opportunities for Namibians.
- The revenues will not be squandered, they will build schools, power our homes, and seed our renewable energy future.
- Local content will be the heartbeat of this industry, our businesses, our skills, at the centre of value creation.

To investors, I say: Namibia welcomes you, but you must partner with us on our terms—terms that protect our environment, respect our communities, and share the benefits fairly.

To Namibians, I say: This is your oil, your gas, your future—rise, prepare, and take your place in this new frontier.

To my fellow leaders, I say: Let us govern with foresight and integrity. Oil money can vanish in a decade, but nation-building lasts forever.

Colleagues at the ministries and relevant institutions, we have one chance to get this right, therefore, failure is not an option! We must succeed, so that the oil beneath our

seas fuel prosperity long after the wells run dry. If we fail, history will judge us harshly.

Let us choose wisely. Let us move from exploration to action—with discipline, with unity, and with the unshakable belief that Namibia and African's best days are ahead.

Thank you.