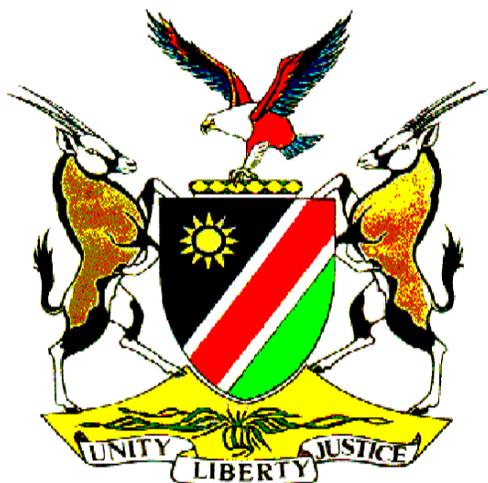


**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**



**STATEMENT BY HON. UAHEKUA HERUNGA, MP**  
**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM**

**AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE**  
**NATIONAL POLICY ON COASTAL MANAGEMENT FOR**  
**NAMIBIA**

**27 MARCH 2013**  
**11H00**

**SHEC, SWAKOPMUND**  
**ERONGO REGION**

Director of Ceremonies,  
Honourable Governor of the Erongo Region;  
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present;  
Your Worship the Mayors of the Coastal Towns,  
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councilors,  
Chief of the Topnaar Traditional Authority,  
Distinguished Traditional Leaders,  
Officials of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism,  
Heads of Government Departments, NGOs and Private Sector,  
Staff of the NACOMA Project,  
Distinguished guests,  
Members of the Media  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure and honour to be with you today here at the Swakopmund Hotel and Entertainment Centre in the Erongo Region to officiate at the launch of the National Policy on Coastal Management.

Namibia has embarked on a new era in the governance of its coastal areas and resources. The National Policy on Coastal Management has come at a time when our coastal areas can contribute more than ever before to an improved quality of life for all Namibians.

This can only happen when managed sustainably and the policy provides a framework within which this can happen.

The National Policy on Coastal Management for Namibia represents a consensus of a two-year thorough consultation process including local communities, the general public, non-governmental organisations, sectoral and other special interest groups, the private sector and government officials. What is clear is that Namibians from all walks of life care deeply for their coast and want it used better and not used up.

**Director of Ceremonies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Our nation is increasingly looking at the coast in terms of economic growth, employment creation, poverty reduction, reduced inequalities in income, and between regions and the promotion of economic empowerment. These long term objectives, articulated in the National Development Plans and Vision 2030, frequently surfaced in the consultative workshops, and this policy is the response of government to the needs and aspirations of our people.

Policy formulation took into account the multi-sectoral, multiple stakeholder nature of our coastal areas where dynamic forces and

complex processes, some of them natural and some human-induced make our overall objective of balancing conservation and development a truly challenging task. Furthermore, there are many laws and policies that apply to one or more aspects of our coastal areas, and a number of State bodies have some degree of jurisdiction there.

There is no adequate legislation that deals directly with the comprehensive governance of the coastal environment. The Sea Shore Ordinance 37 of 1958 enacted by South Africa for then South West Africa is significantly outmoded for the purposes of coastal governance in our independent country. Furthermore, the existing legal framework has significant gaps from the perspective of adopting an integrated approach to the management of the coastal environment.

**Director of Ceremonies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As lead Ministry for the policy process we recognise that, to achieve our overall objectives, all parties will need to be engaged, including civil society and an array of government ministries. This is evident through the adopted approach, which was followed during the formulation of this policy and its vision.

Ample evidence exists, in the Namibian Constitution, policies, long-term developmental plans and visions, to demonstrate Namibia's concern for managing the marine environment and coastal areas adequately. Rooted in sound science, informed by lessons from elsewhere on best governance practice, and guided by a prolonged dialogue between the government, communities and civil society, a robust and highly implementable policy has emerged.

This National Policy on Coastal Management promotes the integration and harmonisation of different legislation for effective planning and implementation in coastal areas, taking into account both environmental and human development needs. This policy will guide Government on the development and enactment of coast-specific legislation to establish appropriate legal mechanisms for coastal management. It supports institutional arrangements that bring flexibility, capacity and power to respond quickly to threats and opportunities associated with coastal resources.

Effective and efficient coastal governance will require the creation of partnerships between government, the private sector and civil society that will promote values of equity, participation, transparency and accountability and will empower stakeholders to participate effectively.

This includes facilitating access to information and capacity development for coastal governance.

Through consultation a consensus has been reached regarding the management of coastal areas and resources to be used in a wise manner, so that social, cultural, environmental and economic considerations are carefully balanced, with optimal benefits to all Namibians with sustainability as the overall aim. The Policy places emphasis on a healthy environment and unique coastal biodiversity. The Policy therefore, recognises the need for conservation and economic development to go hand in hand and for the natural and human resources to be developed in an integrated manner, with fair and transparent access to opportunities for all, now and into the future.

**Director of Ceremonies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**In conclusion,** I express my appreciation to the staff of the Project Management Unit of the NACOMA Project, EcoAfrica Environmental Consultants as the General Facilitator of the consultation process, National Policy and Legal Working Group, various institutions including Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), residents of the five coastal towns and many other organisations.

Before ending my speech I would like to honour one of my officials who have recently been promoted as Deputy Director of Regional services in Rundu. Mr Maketo was promoted into the Erongo Region as Chief Control Warden in 1997 and has served the ministry and the region well. I would like him to come up and receive his Honourary “Coastodian” award.

It is now my honour to declare the National Policy on Coastal Management for Namibia officially launched on this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2013.

**I THANK YOU.**