



Republic of Namibia

Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Malan Lindeque

Chairperson of the Sustainable Development Advisory Council

On the occasion of the

Namibia Sustainable Development Awards Programme Prize-giving

19.00, Nampower Convention Center, 13th May 2015

WINDHOEK

Minister of Environment and Tourism, Honorable Pohamba
Shifeta

Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Investment Fund
of the Republic of Namibia, Mr. Benedict Libanda

Members of the Sustainable Development Advisory Council

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

As the Chairperson of the Sustainable Development Advisory
Council, it is my privilege and honour to welcome you all here
tonight to this the first ever edition of the Namibia Sustainable
Development Awards Programme.

This awards programme was conceived for the first time back in
2013 and is a joint initiative of the Sustainable Development
Advisory Council and the Environmental Investment Fund of
Namibia, two young institutions, both of which are firmly
committed to ensuring that Namibia's development meets the

needs of the present without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

This awards programme fits directly with the mandate of both institutions. The Council, inaugurated in 2013, serves mainly as an advisory body for the Minister of Environment and Tourism, but also is tasked to promote cooperation and coordination on environmental issues. The EIF, which just celebrated its 3rd birthday, meanwhile supports individuals, projects and communities that ensure the sustainable use of natural resources.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the heart of sustainable development is the need to conserve the environment and the integration of environmental protection into how we develop as a nation. This involves all of us. Through this Awards Programme, we have sought to reach out to all sectors of society including industry; community-based organizations; scientists and researchers; individuals; as well as education and media practitioners.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you here who have either submitted applications or nominated others for these awards. Your contributions and efforts are highly valued and appreciated.

Although the number of institutions that submitted was lower than expected (18 in total excluding the thought leadership category), the applications received have proved to be outstanding and competition was fierce in each category.

We are also conscious that this is only the first edition of the awards and we are confident that what we see here tonight will inspire others wishing to contribute to the sustainable development of the nation.

Lastly I would like to use this platform to publicly thank the Environmental Investment Fund for their support to this initiative, and for the very generous prize money on offer. We

look forward to this Awards Programme becoming bigger and better and an annual feature on the Namibian calendar.

Let us look forward to the exciting programme ahead and be proud to recognize and reward the efforts of organizations and individuals active in the vital area of sustainable development.

I thank you!