from April to May 1991. This track record demonstrates a diplomatic career of dedication to numerous efforts for peace to save humanity at the maximum hour of need. I have come to know Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuellar as a man of principles and his firmness that, no doubt helped him greatly in steering the UN through the cold war conflicts and other crises that erupted the same year he assumed the leadership of the United Nations, such as the Falkland Islands conflict between Argentina and the United Kingdom and many others.

No other challenge will shape the legacy of this legendary diplomat than the challenge he faced in finding a peaceful solution to Namibia, which in itself had a positive impact for the whole of Southern Africa. We in Namibia, vividly recall the role Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuellar played in the decolonization process of our country. When he assumed office as United Nations Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar immediately placed the question of Namibia high on his personal agenda. I personally worked closely with him to ensure the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 (1978) for the holding of democratic elections in Namibia. In this, Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuellar personally approached the question of Namibia from a sense of duty as opposed to subjective expectation, without losing sight about the need to implement the process in the best interest of the people of Namibia. To this day, the people of Namibia have a very high regard for Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuellar for the manner in which he directed the United Nations to fulfil its sacred responsibility toward the decolonization of Namibia and achievement of independence on 21 March 1990. His profound act as he states in his memoir was when he administered “the oath of office to Sam Nujoma as first President of an independent Namibia.

As Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuellar turns 90 and spends his time in retirement, it is now the right time to acknowledge his numerous professional achievements, which all deserve to be recorded in the most glorious golden chapters in the annals of human history. The world owes a special moment of gratitude to the Republic of Peru and its people for allowing its most favoured son to have undertaken a pilgrimage for peace in the troubled world in various capacities. Today many parts of the world are less troubled and building peace, thanks to his tireless contributions to conflict resolution and security in the world.

I therefore wish Ambassador Javier Perez de Cuellar personal good health, strength and energy to enjoy his retirement with a sense of fulfilment and happiness.

Dr. Sam Nujoma
FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

REMOVING MISPERCEPTIONS

Marketing to MeatCo

Communal and emerging producers South of the Veterinary Cordon Fence are participating in the export market while the Northern Communal Area (NCA) producers benefit through price incentives.

Given our access to lucrative markets including Norwegian and the European Union (EU), MeatCo is able to derive better value from these markets that enables it to pay producers in the country competitive prices.

MeatCo has one pricing system and pays all its producers the same prices for the same quality delivered. Although the quality of livestock produced by majority of communal producers is not ideal (light carcasses weighting 170 on average, Grade C and very lean) for the export market, MeatCo to the contrary pays the same price for such livestock thus benefiting the communal farmers more for the quality delivered.

The quality of carcasses supplied by many of the communal producers is the single most important aspect that reflects badly in the price paid to communal producers. This challenge goes beyond MeatCo and needs a concerted effort by all relevant stakeholders in the meat industry including Government. In so far as the quality aspect is concerned, the blame is put on MeatCo to produce miracles single handedly.

The Namibian producers across the spectrum (including the communal and emerging) are benefiting from the value derived from the export markets. This enables Namibian producers to earn above their counterparts in South Africa. MeatCo in 2008 paid an additional bonus of N$1.00 /kg to all producers who delivered cattle to MeatCo for that year. Communal producers benefitted from this bonus. Such bonus payments are performance driven thus rewarding producers fairly.