Dr Geingob leaves for Washington, D.C. to attend 2010 AGOA Forum

Hon. Dr Hage Geingob, Minister of Trade and Industry, will lead the Namibian delegation to the 9th AGOA Forum to be held in Washington, D.C., from 2 to 6 August 2010. This Forum is an important platform for dialogue between the USA and Sub-Saharan African countries for the implementation of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). It will be attended by representatives of governments, private sector and civil society from the United States and various Sub-Saharan African countries.

The agenda for the forum will cover issues of trade and economic cooperation between the USA and SSA countries, and highlight a number of critical economic issues, such as, increasing intra-Africa trade, strengthening and expanding US - African trade and investment relations, and Africa’s competitiveness, among others.

The AGOA Forum will specifically focus on agribusiness linkages, and is expected to provide an opportunity to participate Namibian and other private sector representatives to interact with and engage representatives of the US Administration and business leaders on issues of business interest.

The Namibian delegation is expected to use this forum to have bilateral meetings with relevant US representatives on issues of mutual interest such as trade and investment, and particularly market access for Namibian meat, grapes and fish.

The Minister and his delegation are also expected to raise the following issues:

- Non-tariff barriers (NTBs) of interest to Namibian companies that intend exporting to the US market. Extension of AGOA beyond 2014 in order to allow Namibian and other SSA countries to build or upgrade their industrial production and supply capacities;
- Possible designation of the port of Lüderitz as one of the AGOA designated ports of origin for Namibia and its landlocked neighbours;
- Technical assistance from the US towards augmenting the production capacity of Namibian enterprises seeking to export to the US market.

Dr Geingob will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Agriculture, Water and Forestry, and Fisheries and Marine Resources, as well as representatives of the Meat Board and Agricultural Trade Forum.

The delegation will be reinforced by staff members from the Namibian Embassy in Washington, D.C.