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MEDIA RELEASE

ISO Conformity Assessment Workshop 1/2

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NAMIBIAN PRODUCERS TRAINED TO COMPLY TO STANDARDS (Participants are not only producers / manufacturers, but include as well public servants – regulators, NSI staff and consultants. Perhaps you could use another word except producer)

The Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) in collaboration with the International Organization for Standardization Committee on Developing Countries matters (ISO DEVCO) is conducting a three-day National Conformity Assessment Workshop on “*Management Systems Certification Practices*” from 7-9 February 2011 at the Safari Hotel in Windhoek.

The objective of the workshop is to improve understanding of what is expected in relation to certification practice to the requirements of international standards. The workshop focuses on the existing International standard ISO/IEC 17021:2006 - *Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems*.

Management systems certification is increasing in the developing countries, and has a strong role in improving the quality and competitiveness of domestic manufacturing and service provision. The workshop, which is being presented by David Iain Muir, targets a total of 30 participants from persons invited and/or nominated by NSI involved in conformity assessment activities in Namibia.

The workshop was officially opened by the Honourable Dr. Hage Geingob, Minister of Trade and Industry, who emphasised that the training was aimed at deepening the knowledge of the ‘Namibian manufacturers and trade partners on the factors which promote or impede recognition of conformity assessment activities, either within or across borders, and to explore various ways to achieve national and international acceptance of products and services.’

ISO Conformity Assessment Workshop 2/2

He urged the participants to take advantage of the presence of the ISO experts, especially because benchmarking a quality management system against ISO standards through third-party certification, gives customers the peace of mind to know that production and/or service provision is under professional and top management control. 'It will also serve as testimony that the company is committed to supplying a product and/or service of highest quality that is consistent at all times. This is all possible because of the independence, impartiality and integrity of the NSI, as the national standards body conducting certification.'

Dr. Geingob furthermore made it clear that, for any business enterprise, small or large, to remain competitive in a market that is sensitive to the quality and safety of products, 'it is necessary to demonstrate that they [the manufacturer or producer] are capable of consistently delivering products that meet customer as well as regulatory requirements.'

He closed his speech by expressing the wish that the gathering will produce fruitful results in paving the way towards improved management systems and products, which will in turn facilitate trade intensification and competitiveness of Namibian products and services at local and international markets.

Ends.

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