

TALKING NOTES FOR THE ACTING DIRECTOR, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AT THE VALIDATION WORKSHOP OF THE MONITORING FRAMEWORK UNDER THE UNDESA SUPPORT: 6-7 JUNE AT MONOMUTAPA HOTEL

Director of Ceremonies;

Directors in Ministry;

Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UNDESA, Mr Amson Sibanda;

Senior Government Officials;

Consultant Developing the MSME Monitoring Framework, Dr Master Mushonga;

Representatives from UN Country Office;

Representatives of MSME Associations;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this very important workshop where we are validating the micro, small and medium enterprises monitoring framework.

The MSME monitoring framework is being developed through the support from Division for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs under a project on strengthening national capacities for enhancing MSME resilience and building forward better to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in developing countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative.

Ladies and gentlemen, our government takes cognizance of the crucial role played by the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country's socio-economic development. The sector contributes to GDP, provides employment, livelihoods and facilitates industrialization of rural areas, thereby, reducing regional imbalances and assuring more equitable distribution of wealth. The MSMEs also play a huge role in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Given the significant contribution of the MSMEs to development, there is need to regularly track developments in the sector. The demand for reporting outcomes and impact of development efforts has become huge.

Ladies and gentlemen, it has been huge struggle to get data and information timely hence we faced difficulties to report or account for some of the work being done by the Ministry and its various stakeholders. It is my hope that this framework we will validate today will go a long way in alleviating this challenge. It is envisaged that the framework will help in timely tracking and capturing outputs, outcomes and impacts in critical areas of the MSME development such as size of the sector, levels of formalization, contribution to employment, fiscal revenue, access to finance and many other aspects.

The government including various stakeholders need to ventilate the sector and gather evidence which will inform programming and formulation of policy frameworks. Therefore, the Ministry has high expectations on the delivery of this assignment.

The monitoring framework is also coming at the opportune moment as the nation has started to implement the National Development Strategy 1 which is setting the foundation for the attainment of Vision 2030 of becoming an upper middle-income economy. The survey would provide a baseline on what the MSMEs sector is contributing to the economy.

Let take this opportunity to thank Division for Sustainable Development Goals under UNDESA for the support. Much appreciation is also extended to our various stakeholders for your inputs towards the development of this framework. Your attendance at this

validation workshop to further testimony of your commitment towards the development of the MSME sector.

With these few remarks, I wish you very fruitful engagement.

I thank you.