

REPORT

NCCI 6TH ANNUAL ECONOMIC REVIEW

Venue: Nampower Convention Centre

Date: Tuesday, 5th December 2000

Time: 08H00 – 13H00

1. INTRODUCTION:

NCCI organised the 6th Annual Economic Review on **Tuesday, 5th December 2000**. The objective of the review was to provide opportunity to private sector to rate the performance of specific sectors for 2000 (in terms of sectoral targets made), to isolate problems and constraints faced and to make projections for the 2001 season. The review, which was supported by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), is an annual event where major sectors of the Namibian economy are reviewed, preceded by a macro-economic overview. This event also provides an opportunity for private sector to isolate policy and other measures to be pursued by the NCCI in the New Year. With the establishment of Standing Committees in November 2000, the Annual Economic Review certainly provides opportunity for the Standing Committee Agenda for the New Year to be informed.

2. 6TH ANNUAL ECONOMIC REVIEW:

About 89 participants including staff members, speakers (panelists), company representatives and the press attended this year's annual economic review, chaired by the President of NCCI, Dr. Leake S. Hangala. Following are details of speakers and sectors addressed by the panelists:

Topic/Sector	Presenter	Position/Company/Institution
Macro Economic Review	Ms. D. Anjaneyule	Chief Economist (Bank of Namibia)
Agriculture	Mr. G. Grobler	Executive Director (Namibia Agricultural Union)
Mining	Mr. K. Kapwanga	President (Chamber of Mines)
Tourism	Mr. M. Webbowen	Secretary (FENATA)
Fishing	Mr. R. Gabeiras	Managing Director (CADILU FISHING)
Finance: Banking	Mr. J. Swanepoel	President (Bankers Association of Namibia)
Finance: Investment/Insurance	Mr. D. Conway	Deputy Chairperson (Life Assurance Ass. of Namibia)
Energy: Electricity	Mr. I. Hoogenhout	Senior General Manager (Nampower)
Energy: Petroleum	Mr. F. Bajomo	Managing Director (Shell Exploration & Production)
Telecommunication	Mr. F. Jacobs	General Manager – Marketing & Business Development (Telecom Namibia)
Construction	Mr. P. Postema	Managing Director (Stocks Building Namibia)
Transport	Mr. D. Uys	General Manager (Du Toit Transport/NAMROADS)
Information Technology	Mr. T. Schoemans	Director (Schoemans Office Systems)
Manufacturing	Mr. J. Venter	Chairman (Assoc. of Namibia Manufacturers)
SME	Mr. P. Bruhns	Coordinator (Joint Consultative Committee)
Trading	Mr. B. Rubenstein	General Manager (Pupkewitz Holdings)

The presentations reported mixed performance of various sectors with the transport sector indicating specific influences as a result of the fuel price increasing during 2000. Positive growth prospects were projected for 2001 for most of the sectors reviewed. The following is a short summary of issues raised during discussions:

- Tourism: Security situation in the north east of Namibia. The issue of crime although the rate is low compared to other Southern African destinations, effect of the regional problems on the Tourism market. Security of investment in the Tourism Sector.
- Agriculture: Positive prospects in terms of marketing opportunities for Namibia meat, especially in the light of "food & mouth"-disease outbreak in Mpumalanga Province in South Africa and the "mad-cow"-disease problem in Europe. Implication of the closing of South African border for meat imports from Namibia.
- Energy: Extra business opportunities to result from Kudu-gas initiative. Prospects for Wind-Energy Park in Luderitz and Solar Energy Generation in Namibia.
- Construction: HIV/AIDS impact on the Construction Industry and the local industry's capacity to undertake projects such as the power-line construction for NAMPOWER.
- Fishing: The effect of the EU/RSA Agreement on the marketing of fish in Europe.

3. POLICY ISSUES ISOLATED FOR NCCI

The following constituted a number of key policy issues isolated by the presenters for the NCCI to follow-up in 2001:

- ❑ **Anti-dumping and competition legislation (infant industry protection as it relates to local manufacturing interests, unfair trade practices in SACU and of course the associated lack of national and SACU-wide competition policy).**
- ❑ **HIV/AIDS and its impact on private sector activities (in relation projected impact on skills, loss of human resources and generally economic performance)**
- ❑ **Instability/Security situation (crime as it affects the tourism industry, general security situation in the north east and its impact on the tourism industry)**
- ❑ **Dialogue with government (the need for constructive dialogue with for the promotion of private sector interests and economic development and growth of Namibia).**

4. CONCLUSION:

The objectives of the 6TH Annual Economic Review were achieved in that companies who participated in the event were adequately briefed on the performance of major sectors of the Namibian economy while a number of key issues for NCCI advocacy agenda for 2001 were also identified.

While the presentations generally projected positive growth prospects for the economy in general, a number of concerns were raised that features in most of the presentations. Key concerns focus on unfair competition from outside (damping and other forms of unfair trade practices), dialogue with government (the need to increase), protection for infant industry, and the impact of HIV/AIDS on the activities of private sector.

Key recommendations were made in terms of improving the Annual Economic Review in terms of ensuring the participation of other stakeholders, i.e. government and labour (including a specific presentation focussing on the labour sector). The President of NCCI indicated that a number of

key concerns raised must be taken up by private sector in dialogue platforms and definitely must get incorporated in the Standing Committee Agenda for 2001.

Report compiled by: Sam Geiseb (Chief Executive Officer)