



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

SPEECH BY ALPHEUS G. !NARUSEB, (MP) MINISTER OF LANDS AND RESETTLEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AT THE HIGH LEVEL GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT FORUM ORGANISED BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION INSTITUTE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

**COEX CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE
SEOUL- REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

24 OCTOBER, 2011

- H.E. Do Youp KWON: **Minister of Land, Transport, and Maritime Affairs, Republic of Korea**
 - H.E. Catalina Parot: **Minister of National Property, Chile**
 - **H.E. Jari Koskinen: Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland**
 - **H.E. Vilas Rao Deshmukh: Minister for Science & Technology, India**
 - H.E. Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas: **Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia**
 - H.E. A. Gansukh: **Minister of Road, Transportation, Construction and Urban Development, Mongolia**
 - Mr. Seong-An LEEM: **President, National Geographic Information Institute**
 - The Moderator: **Dr. Vanessa V. Lawrence CB, Director General and Chief Executive,**
 - Ordnance Survey: **United Kingdom**
 - **Distinguished participants**
 - **Ladies and Gentlemen**
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I wish to express my gratitude to the organizers of this important meeting for extending this invitation to me and also for recognizing the humble strides Namibia has made in the development and promotion of geo-spatial information for decision making. I also want to use this opportunity to commend all the organizers of this meeting for their foresight in initiating a global approach to finding solutions to our common challenges.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to also use this opportunity to express my appreciation and that of my delegation to the host, the **Government and the People of the Republic of Korea** for their warm reception and for accepting to host this important event, the **United Nations** and the **National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea** for jointly organizing this high level Global Geospatial Information Management Forum.

Mr. Chairman,

As a Nation, **Namibia is delighted to participate** at this high level forum, the first of its kind, aimed at shaping the agenda for the development of geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges like sustainable development, climate change, disaster management, peace and security.

We have in recent years witnessed the great strides made in understanding the value of geospatial information for use in creating operational pictures, analyses and in making decisions in virtually all facets of business and personal life. The use of spatial information is equally amplified in the statement of one pilot, Ms. Markham, who said,

“A map in the hands of a pilot is a testimony of a man’s faith in other men; it is a symbol of confidence and trust. ... A map says to you, Read me, follow me closely, and doubt me not. It says I am the earth in the palm of your hand. Without me you are alone and lost. Were all of the maps in the world destroyed and vanished under the direction of some malevolent hand, each man would be blind again, each city be made a stranger to the next, and each landmark become a meaningless sign post pointing to nothing” .

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

Namibia is determined not only to provide its citizens and residents with a faithful record of its land marks, natural and man made features, but to preserve these records for generations to come. These records are captured in the form of maps, aerial images and cadastral information.

I would like to inform this gathering that **Namibia has 2600 Trigonometrical Beacons**, which form the basis of the current geodetic network. These are mostly situated in the commercial farming areas, and therefore, do not have adequate density to cater for the development needs of Namibia. These beacons are not also convenient to fully take advantage of the global navigational satellite systems.

Namibia has embarked on a programme to upgrade the current geodetic infrastructure. To this end, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement which is charged with geodetic network has completed an observation campaign of **Namibia's Zero Order Network**. This Network consists of 22 accessible monuments with coordinates given in the **International Terrestrial Reference Frame (ITRF), epoch 2005.0**. To date, Namibia has built **79 first order beacons** and another 50 are planned for this financial year. To further support, the development of geospatial applications, a feasibility study for the establishment of continuously operating reference stations is underway. When implemented, it will reduce the cost of surveys and quicken the densification of the control stations in Namibia.

In order to expand the application of spatial data generated by the Directorate of Survey and Mapping, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement has engaged the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Namibian Police in developing applications in the areas of Health Facility Mapping and Geo-policing. These tools are useful for planning, facility management and resource allocation.

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,**

I am pleased to inform you that a policy on the **Namibian Spatial Data Infrastructure** (NSDI) has been developed under the

coordination of the National Planning Commission. The purpose of this policy is to guide the collection, processing, integrating, storing, distribution, and improved access and utilisation of spatial data and services in Namibia. Some of the objectives of this policy are to:

- Ensure sustainable funding for spatial data
- Promote the use and benefits of available spatial data in Namibia
- Promote free access to spatial data within Government, free viewing of unrestricted public sector spatial data and free access to metadata
- Promote transparency of user conditions and restrictions
- Create a single point of access to available spatial data
- Reduce the duplication of effort among stakeholders; improve quality and reduce costs related to the production and usage of data
- Promote the development of private value added services through Public Private Partnerships.

In support of the **Namibian Spatial Data Infrastructure**, Namibia has embarked on a systematic revision of the **topographic maps**. Namibia has full coverage at the **scales of 1 in 50 000 and 1 in 250 000**. Full colour digital aerial images of **sub-meter resolution** exist for the northern part of Namibia. A full coverage is expected in the next two years. Namibia has developed a **Unique Parcel Identifier**, which,

when implemented, will assist in the sharing of information between government agencies and across national boundaries. It will also facilitate the unification of land management in Namibia.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is my expectation that this meeting will come up with strategies and suggestions that will help member States address the challenging policy and governance issues related to **Geospatial Information Management** (GIM). We need to develop mechanisms for strengthening national policies and strategies for the development and implementation of **Spatial Data Infrastructure**, SDI and for support to the development and implementation of geospatial information standards.

Capacity building, Mr. Chairman, is very central for the sustainability of **Geospatial Information Management**. It is therefore important that this forum comes up with concrete initiatives for developing and retaining experts in this field.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to suggest that in moving this process forward, we ensure that the strategy is hinged on existing efforts, institutions and institutional arrangements. We need to build upon the achievements of existing initiatives, such as the **United Nations**

Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG), the United Nations Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI) and the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI), the Mapping Africa for Africa Initiative and the African Reference Framework (AFREF) programme. In Africa, the role of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa as the coordinating body for Africa's Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure through **CODIST-Geo** needs to be recognised and strengthened.

Master of ceremony, in closing, permit me once more to extend my appreciation to the **National Geographic Information Institute of the Republic of Korea**, the **United Nations Statistics Division** and the **United Nations Cartographic Section** for the opportunity given to me to address you on this occasion. I wish you all a fruitful meeting and look forward to receiving your recommendations from this high level forum.

I thank you.