

SACU EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ACCREDITATION

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

15 APRIL 2014



Hon Minister of Foreign Affairs Mrs Netumbo Nandi- Ndaitwah (MP) receiving SACU Executive Secretary Ms Paulina Elago's letter of credence.

Windhoek, Namibia: The SACU Executive Secretary Ms Paulina Elago presented her letter of credence to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (MP) on Tuesday 15 April 2014, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Offices.

In her welcoming remarks the Minister welcomed Ms Elago, firstly back home, as despite being a Namibian National, she has been working outside of the Country for a period of some time. She also welcomed her back to the SACU region, as Ms Elago's last place of employment was in Eastern Africa, Tanzania.

The Minister went on to say that "SACU being the oldest Customs Union in the world has been the benchmark from which other Customs Union have been based on. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Government of Namibia being the Host Country for the Customs Union pays special attention to the Union, through the Ministry of Finance which is the focal point. We are looking forward to working with you and your team.

The Minister also congratulated Ms Elago on her success in being appointed the Executive Secretary of SACU. She mentioned that "the panellists identified special characteristics in her that convinced them that she would be the right candidate to deliver on the Mandate of SACU.

The Minister then assured Ms Elago that she will receive the Ministry's highest consideration at all times whenever in need. She then reiterated her best wishes and success to Ms Elago and the entire Secretariat team.

In response Ms Elago thanked the Minister for the words of welcome and assurances of support. She also mentioned that SACU's as the oldest Customs Union has a lot of experience that can be shared with other Customs Unions in the region. She also expressed her appreciation for the support received from the Government of Namibia as the Host Country of the SACU Secretariat and the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is the Ministry responsible for International Organisations based in Namibia.

Ms Elago explained to the Minister the structure of the SACU work programme, she then went on to state that due to the fact that the SACU work programme is Member State driven, there has been interruptions in the meetings schedule partly due to the National elections that will be taking place in South Africa early in May 2014.

To this the Minister responded by mentioning that it was not just South Africa, but generally the Political agenda of the region is full as most governments will be having National Elections throughout the year (2014).

Ms Elago was accompanied by the Chief Legal Officer; Ms Ndibo Oitsile, Director Trade Facilitation and Revenue Management; Mr Dumisani Mahlinza, Director Policy Development & Research; Mr Anton Faul, and Communications Manager; Ms Lindiwe Dlamini.