

# TRALAC CONFERENCE 2008

Namibia, the EPA and Regional  
Integration

J. Hoffmann ATF Namibia



# Right Honourable Prime Minister of Namibia, Nahas Angula

- Statement made on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2008 at a meeting of the Presidents Council of Namibia.
- Will be read only.
- Guiding Principle for all Agricultural Trade Negotiations .



# Regional Integration and the (I)EPA Trade in Goods

- The world will turn around, whether there is an EPA or not – don't over emphasise the influence of the EPA negotiations on regional integration
- There are many other market opportunities that do not make the same demands on regional integration.



# The Political Will

- Meeting of the SADC – EPA Ministers of Trade in Gaborone on 4 March 2008:
- Direct SACU member states in the SADC – EPA to find common ground incorporating South Africa into the negotiation process.
- Meeting in Maseru, 4. – 9. May 2008: Confirmation of the concerns of Namibia by all SADC – EPA member states.



# Still in Maseru:

- Work starts on a common list of concerns: South Africa and Angola come on board with their specific concerns.
- First draft of a SACU market access document starts at the same time.
- The TDCA is used as a base for the SACU common market access document.



# Priority for Namibia

- The integrity of the SACU is important for Namibia:
- Transfers from the SACU Common Revenue Pool to Namibia 8,5 billion N\$ in 2007.
- Possible total loss of preferential market access to the EU markets: N\$ 500 mill, including upstream and downstream effects.



# Political considerations

- The IEPA text and the development of Namibia:
- Loss of policy space and developmental instruments in place.
- I am going to tell you what is good for you and your development: Top Down approach and neo-colonialism



# But Technical difficulties:

- SACU is currently split: BLS and (Mozambique) have initialed the IEPA
- South Africa and (Angola) have not initialed: Namibia with concerns that have to be addressed in the 2ns phase of the negotiations – now together with the concerns of South Africa and Angola.
- 9<sup>th</sup> draft of the concerns acceptable to ANSA.





# Technical Difficulties II

- The SACU common market access offer to the EC:
- Based on TDCA + of South Africa BUT taking into consideration the sensitivities of the BLNS.
- The 22 tariff lines that are rejected by the EC but will be addressed under a revised IIP article in the IEPA.
- The final text not yet available\_ SA is stalling!



# Possible OUTCOME:

- Namibia will not throw the proverbial towel in the negotiation process.
- In her negotiations, the integrity of the SACU, and to a lesser extent the integrity of the SADC ( EPA configuration) is of high importance.



# 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage of the Negotiation

- Two phases to run parallel:
- Addressing and negotiating the concerns of Ansa
- The Service, Government Procurement and Investment chapters of the (I)EPA with Botswana; Lesotho; Mozambique and Swaziland.



# ANSA Exemption

- Article 67 of the initialed IEPA does exclude ANSA countries from negotiation in services, unless these countries apply for service negotiations.
- Namibia's position is very clear: Organise these sectors in the country firstly, run through the workshops and meetings that are necessary to formulate a negotiation position and only then come to the negotiation table.



# The reality of trade in services

- Openness versus risk aversion!
- Namibia's service sector is in fact quite open and although the service sector contributes  $> 40\%$  to GDP, many players in these sectors are NOT Namibian companies, but companies from SACU member states.



# The Outcome

- The European service sector companies are looking for only two objectives in the envisaged negotiations:
- Access and Security ( Mr. Pascal Kerneis statement in Cape Town, February 2008)
- Are they competitive, seeking protection??



# The End

- Thank you for listening
- THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE FORUM  
OF NAMIBIA
  - THE VOICE OF NAMIBIAN  
AGRICULTURE IN REGIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

