NSI: Challenges and Lessons Learnt on the Implementation of Namibia’s National Quality Policy

Lorna T. Shikongo-Kuvare
General Manager: Certification
There is one rule for the industrialist and that is:

“Make the best quality of goods possible at the lowest cost possible, paying the highest wages possible.”

Henry Ford (1863-1947) American industrialist
Presentation Outline

• Legal and Institutional Framework - NQI
• Namibia’s NQP (Approved in 1999)
• Revision of the NQP
• Lessons learnt
Namibia signed the WTO/TBT Agreement on 1\textsuperscript{st} January 1995
  – The need to establish the national quality infrastructure with the aim of facilitating world trade

National Quality Policy
  – Formalize Namibian government policy position
  – Establish the National Quality Infrastructure

Was drafted in 1997 and approved by Cabinet in 1999
Legal and Institutional Framework

• NQP advocated for the enactment
  – The Act establishes the legal and institutional framework for the Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) as Namibia’s only National Standards Body (NSB)

• The Metrology Act of 1973
  – was already in existence when NQP was approved
  – Amended in 2005
  – A new Metrology Bill was drafted in 2016 and has been approved in principle by Cabinet in March 2017

• SADC TBT Annex to SADC Trade Protocol came after NQP and NSI on 12 July 2008 - SQAM
Namibia’s NQP

- Establishment of Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) - 2008
- Establishment of metrology system (National Metrology Institute – NMI) - 2010
- Establishment of accreditation system (SADCAS)
- Declaration of the National Quality Week - 2012
- Establishment of the National Quality Awards Programme - 2012

NSI was mandated by the government through its line Ministry to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the NQP, and periodically update the Minister.
Vision 2030, NDP, HPP, Legislation…

**National Quality Policy (NQP)**

**National Quality Infrastructure**

**Standards & Technical Regulations**
- Standards Development & Coordination
  - Metrology
  - GRN Ministries
  - Regulatory agencies
  - Private sector

**Conformity Assessment Services**
- Testing & Inspection
  - Metrology, Certification
    - GRN Ministries
    - Conformity assessments
      agencies, e.g. CVL, NIP
    - Private sector

**Accreditation bodies**
- SADCAS
- SANAS

Traders/Manufacturers and Service Providers

Economic Advancement! Industrialization! Capacity Building!

Health and Safety of Consumers, Protection of Animals and the Environment

Trade Agreements
(Trade facilitation of quality goods and services)
Road to Implementation and Challenges encountered

• Series of NQP implementation workshop held
  – Poor response from stakeholders

• Some issues raised on the content of the NQP
  – General statements (lack in detail)
  – Quality Infrastructure institutional mandate not clearly defined
  – Technical regulation only mentioned in passing
  – International recognition of the NQI not articulated
  – Regional integration not mentioned
  – Responsibilities not defined
  – Time lines absent

So, NQP implementation hit a sang!!!!!
Road to Implementation and Challenges encountered

• Technical regulation regime in Namibia is fragmented
  – Many Offices, Ministries and Agencies (OMAs)
  – Multitude of approaches
  – Division of labour and responsibilities not always clear

• Regulations are outdated/obsolete and historically based on South African regulations

• National Quality Infrastructure not fully established
  – NSI is a young organization
  – Capacities of public laboratories limited
  – Few public laboratories accredited

• National Quality Policy approved in 1999 overtaken by changes in the landscape

NQP needed to be revised!!!!
Consideration in the NQP Revision

• Agree on the methodology to be used
• Obtain inputs from both public and private sectors
• Identify shortcomings of the current NQP
• Identify opportunities for improvement of the NQP
• Align the NQP with
  – WTO TBT Agreement
  – TBT Annex to the SADC Protocol on Trade
• Deal with gaps identified by the SADC Protocol on Trade implementation status annual review
Consultation...

- Five Consultation Workshops (July - August 2016)
  - Windhoek (Public sector, Private sector)
  - Swakopmund (Public and private sectors)
  - Mariental (Public and private sectors)
  - Oshakati (Public and private sectors)
  - Individual consultations with critical Ministries & agencies
376 invitations sent out
80 stakeholders participated and provided inputs
Consultation and discussions
  - Considered questions pertaining to the two components of a NQP, i.e. national quality infrastructure and technical regulation framework
  - Analysed the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) of the National Quality Infrastructure
Inputs were utilised to develop a revised draft NQP
Friday, 22 July 2016 MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL QUALITY POLICY CONSULTATIONS UNDERWAY IN NAMIBIA

The Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development and its implementation agent Namibian Standards Institution (NSI) together with UNIDO are conducting consultations with a number of public and private sector organizations as part of the review of the National Quality Policy (NQP) document. The current NQP document was revisited by all relevant stakeholders and conformity assessment experts through a series of workshops held in 2013 and 2014. The aim of the workshops was to interrogate the policy document’s suitability in addressing the standardization and conformity assessment needs of the country given the changing environment in regional and international trade arena such as the African Free Trade Area.

Speaking on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development, Maria Pogisho (Deputy Director of Commerce), stated that the policy seeks to streamline the work of all quality related institutions and coordinate all elements of the ……….
Validation Workshop
Progress on the revised NQP

- Revised NQP submitted to Cabinet for approval
- Formation of a Technical Regulatory Body to oversee the formulation of technical regulations
Lessons Learnt

• NQP Policy document must be clear
  – vision (government strategic intent on the NQI)
  – set objectives
  – implementation plan with timelines

• Clearly defined roles and responsibilities to ensure that the Quality Infrastructure is conducive to delivering the services

• Inclusion of the technical regulatory framework in accordance with international best practice

• Integrated approach – oversights, overlaps and conflict of interest amongst various QI institutions
Lessons Learnt..

- Sufficient resource allocation to facilitate the implementation
- Involvement and support from Government as highest authority as possible (financial, etc.)
- Consultation and communication (create awareness)
- Monitoring and evaluation
**Implementation Arrangements**

- Lead Ministry for implementation of NQP - Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development (MITSMED)
- Representative Core Group established by Cabinet to support MITSMED
- Detailed Implementation Plan developed within three months of NQP approval
- Implementation of the plan - responsibility of each relevant ministries
- Implementation period set at five (5) years
THANK YOU