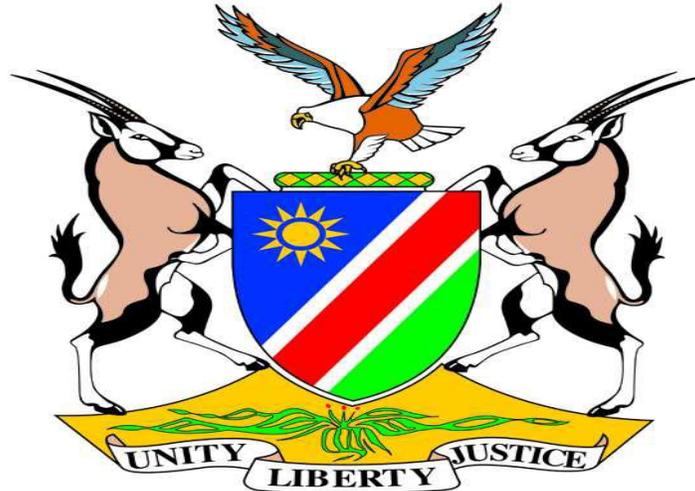


GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Key Note Address by

Hon. Dr. Peya Mushelenga,

**Minister of Urban and Rural Development, on the occasion
of the inauguration of Linyanti Constituency Office**

11 July 2019

**Linyanti Constituency,
Zambezi Region**

- Director of Ceremonies, Madam Regina Ndopu-Lubinda, Chief Regional Officer, Zambezi Regional Council
- Honourable Dr Albert Kawana, Attorney-General of the Republic of Namibia
- Honourable Lawrence Sampofu, Governor of Zambezi Region
- Honourable Beaven Munali, Chairperson of Zambezi Regional Council Management Committee
- Honourable Cletius Sipapela, Councillor of Linyanti Constituency and other Regional Councillors present,
- Your Worship, the Mayor of Katima Mulilo Town and all Local Authority Councillors;
- Honourable Ignatius Nkunga, Special Advisor to the Governor of Zambezi Region
- Distinguished Representatives of our respected Traditional Authorities of Mafwe, Mayeyi, Mashi and Masubiya.
- Heads of Security and other Special Invited guests
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I am privileged and honoured to stand before you this morning on this momentous occasion of the inauguration of the Linyanti Constituency office. I am indeed pleased to have been invited by the Zambezi Regional Council to come and officially inaugurate the new office. Allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate them on the job well done and thank them for their able leadership that has made them realise their mandates of service delivery and infrastructure development. As the line Minister, I attach great importance to projects related to bringing government infrastructure to rural areas.

Director of Ceremonies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Previously, the Zambezi Region only had 6 constituencies before the Fourth Delimitation Commission, as appointed by His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, recommended the split the Linyanti Constituency into two with a view to enable the Hon. Councillors to easily reach their electorates and effectively provide services to them. The splitting of the Constituency, thus, resulted in Linyanti Constituency being without an office, whereas the Judea Lyaboloma, which became the 7th Constituency, continued its service delivery operations in Sangwali. Accordingly, there was a need for the construction of Linyanti Constituency office.

The construction of this office attests to the government's commitment to, among others, of decentralisation, finalisation of capital projects and bringing services closer to the people. Defining the concept of territorial decentralisation, in their discourse titled "Centralisation and Decentralisation", published in the *Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Science*, Zimbabwean academics, Samson B. M. Marume and Roy R. Jubenkanda state that it is illustrated by the establishment of field offices as administrative units of the higher authority, *i.e.* representing the head office. This is what we are witnessing today.

The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development has invested a lot of financial resources in order to allow the community of this Constituency access to government services. The construction of this office cost government an amount of N\$16 million to complete. Considering the prevailing economic downturn, this effort is commendable.

Director of Ceremonies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you have noticed, this building was designed to be much bigger than other old constituency offices in the region. The modern structure encompasses the decentralisation policy in terms of the approved constituency support structure. In addition, the visual appearance of the building speaks a lot about the upper dry land vegetation of the surrounding environment and vegetation of the constituency and this does indeed create an appealing and welcoming atmosphere to the office.

Moreover, other appealing features of the office is its spaciousness as it houses a big enough boardroom that is purposed for hosting meetings for office and possibly community meetings as well as sufficient and spacious offices for the Constituency Councillor and staff members. In essence, the office was constructed in line with the concept of bringing services closer to the people.

Director of Ceremonies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Leadership is about accessibility, as this is the only way when leaders can exchange views with the community on matters of mutual concern and join forces to address the challenges and needs of the community. Accordingly, this office, the Councillor and staff thereof, should be accessible to the community. This will ensure that the plight of the people will be attended to efficiently and effectively. This will help to develop the community's sense of ownership and enjoin them to actively participate in public affairs and chart the course of their development.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our partners in development, i.e. the consultants, engineers, quantity surveyors and contractors who worked in tandem with the Zambezi Regional Council to ensure the completion of this office thereby

bringing the realisation of this significant project. You all worked collectively and tirelessly to ensure that the office meets all the requirements and standards as was specified and prescribed. I humbly thank you for participating in this project and appreciate your hard work.

To the Zambezi Regional Council, I once again congratulate you on the construction of this office and for accomplishing one of the mandates of your institution exists for. I am certain that this new office will become a token of the sound relationship and service delivery between the Zambezi Regional Council, the Constituency Councillor, the communities which fall under Linyanti Constituency and the entire residents of Zambezi Region in general.

With these few remarks, I extend my appreciation and gratitude to everyone present here who came to witness this memorable occasion, and therefore, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, **I hereby officially inaugurate the Linyanti Constituency office.**

I THANK YOU