



## **Republic of Namibia**

**Keynote address by Hon Dr Peya Mushelenga, MP**

**Minister of Urban and Rural Development**

**On the occasion of the inauguration of the electrification project  
in Okahandja Park (Tobias Hainyeko Constituency) and Havana,  
(Moses Garoeb Constituency)**

**07 November 2019**

Director of Ceremonies, Mr Robert Kahimise, CEO of Windhoek Municipality;

Your Worship Councillor Muesee Kazapua, Mayor of Windhoek;

Hon. Tom Alweendo, Minister of Mines and Energy;

Honourable Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Governor of Khomas Region;

Honourable Rachel Jacob, Chairperson of Khomas Regional Council;

Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors;

Ms Foibe Namene, CEO of the Electricity Control Board;

Officials of Windhoek Municipality;

Officials of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development;

Representative of the Contractor and Invited Stakeholders;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning!

It gives me great pleasure, as I address you at this important occasion, marking the inauguration of the electrification project in Okahandja Park and Havana. The inauguration of this project is a clear sign that we are moving to the status of complete need-based infrastructure development for our capital town and the country at large, as stated in our Vision 2030 and the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

Let me at the outset applaud the Windhoek Municipality, for living up to the expectation of the central government priorities, supplying electricity to the underserved communities of the residents of the city. It is indeed a responsibility of the Municipality to ensure that citizens and visitors, who live within the jurisdictional area of Windhoek, are provided with adequate and reliable services, in order to ensure a decent livelihood and to enable them to purpose economic activities. It therefore goes without saying that the completion of this project will make a positive impact on the livelihoods of a section of our people, who reside in this part of the City.

Director of proceedings

Ladies and gentlemen

Around this time, last year, I had an opportunity to officially inaugurate the Lafrenz Electrical Load Centre, in the Lafrenz Industrial Area. During the inauguration ceremony, I was informed that this Electrical Load Centre would enable the Municipality to deliver electricity services to many communities and strengthen the distribution network, thereby increasing the reliability in electricity supply in Windhoek Municipality. During the same ceremony, I was also reliably informed that it would be from this Electrical Load Centre that residents of Tobias Hainyeko and Moses Garoeb Constituencies will be supplied electricity. This ceremony is therefore a testimony that the Windhoek Municipality has lived up to its promise.

The successful and timely completion of this electrification project has therefore brought, as I can see, smiles on the faces of many residents of Windhoek living in these areas. This is because the lack of electricity in parts of Okahandja Park, here in Tobias Hainyeko and parts of Havana in the Moses Garoeb Constituency is from now on a thing of the past. Electricity impacts positively on the lives of learners and students who had otherwise depended on poor light. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' publication on the benefits and barriers of electricity confirms that electricity's light is efficient compared to candle, wood and lamp lights and it facilitates the quality of studying.<sup>1</sup> Electricity is further used for information technology equipment.

I am informed that in the near future, residents of Om'gulgombashe, Kilimanjaro, Babylon and One Nation Settlements, and many others will also receive the same service. The extension of energy infrastructure to these areas will eliminate the danger of fire caused candle lights, a type of misfortune that has left many families in destitute.

Director of Ceremonies

Ladies and Gentleman

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2014, Electricity and education: The benefits, barriers, and recommendations for achieving the electrification of primary and secondary schools, New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

I was informed that this project has been funded to the tune of **N\$13 million**. To me, this is public funds well spent, and I can only applaud the Windhoek Municipality Council for this noble undertaking. As a Government, we encourage these kinds of interventions; because they are aimed at bringing services closer to the people, which is one of the main objectives of our national developmental plans being NDP5, the Harambee Prosperity Plan and our Vision 2030, as well as the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto.

I would like to encourage the Windhoek Municipality Council to intensify these kinds of projects, because only through this we, as a nation will be able to achieve prosperity for all our people. As your line Minister, I will continue to pay attention to Local Authorities funding, because it is them who are working closer with the masses, and therefore are familiar with their needs and aspirations. In keeping with this, the Government through the MURD has secured a budget allocation for construction of basic municipal services by Local Authorities and Regional Councils during 2019/2020 FY totalling **N\$567.6 million**.

### **Director of proceedings**

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

The provision of basic infrastructure and services remains one of the top priorities to the SWAPO-led Government at all levels, Central, Regional and Local levels. In this connection, the Central

Government through the MURD provided funding to the City of Windhoek in the amount of **N\$15 million** towards this project. I am also delighted to confirm what His Worship the Mayor has just alluded that my Ministry has committed an additional **N\$14 million** during the current financial year 2019/2020, to electrify one thousand (1,000) houses more, by June 2020 under the informal settlement upgrading project. I am therefore eagerly looking forward to come here or somewhere near here, to officially switch-on electricity in the houses of the 1,000 beneficiaries, come July 2020.

**It is now my pleasure to inaugurate this project.**

**I thank you for your attention!**