



**STATEMENT BY**

**HON. DR. PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP**

**MINISTER OF URBAN AND RULA DEVELOPMENT,**

**ON THE OCASSION OF THE GROUND-BREAKING**

**CEREMONY OF**

**ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS IN OTJOMUISE**

**(KHOMASDAL CONSTITUENCY) AND HAVANA (MOSES**

**GAROEB CONSTITUENCY)**

**Erf 3451 CNR FRANKFURT & MANNHEIM STREETS**

**(OTJOMUISE)**

**21 FEBRUARY 2020**

**Director of Ceremonies, Mr Robert Kahimise, CEO of the City of Windhoek;**

**Honourable Laura McLeod-Katjirua, MP & Governor of the Khomas Region;**

**Honourable Rachel Jacob, Chairperson of the Khomas Regional Council;**

**Your Worship Councillor Fransina Kahungu, Mayor of the City of Windhoek;**

**Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors;**

**Officials of the City of Windhoek;**

**Esteemed Residents;**

**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 commencement of the electrification project in Otjomuise and Havana settlements. This project testifies our resolve to provide much needed infrastructure to our residents, particularly in the townships where most of our low income compatriots reside.

Let me, on the onset; applaud the City of Windhoek, for taking the initiative in discharging its development obligations to supply electricity to the underserved communities of our Capital City. This is a positive response to the government's drive to narrow imbalances in the development programmes rolled out to members of our society. The City of Windhoek has the responsibility to ensure that all citizens and visitors alike, who live within the jurisdictional area of Windhoek, are provided with adequate and reliable supply, in order to ensure, amongst others, free movement of people, and to stimulate economic activities in marginalized communities particularly, to ensure a firm and speedy departure from the legacy of the past.

Our people have longed habitable environment and decent services. The successful completion of this project will signify a remarkable change and make a positive impact on the livelihoods of our people, to whom we owe our ultimate duty. We have a moral obligation to redress socio-economic inequalities in our midst.

In November last year, I had an opportunity to officially inaugurate and switch-on electricity in about one thousand two hundred (1200) houses in Okahandja Park and Havana settlements of Tobias Hainyeko and Moses //Garoeb Constituencies. During the ceremony, I observed the smiles on the faces of our residents, who became lucky beneficiaries of individual electricity connections, right in their houses.

Honourable Governor and Councillors may also recall that during the same ceremony, I promised that my Ministry would commit an additional N\$ 14 million for the financial year 2019/20, to electrify one thousand two hundred houses by June 2020. Our presence here today is therefore testimony to the fact that the Ministry has made good on its promise. I am therefore looking forward to the Line Minister of the day coming to officially switch-on electricity in the houses of the 1200 beneficiaries, come September 2020.

### **Hon Councillors**

#### **Esteemed residents**

Today's ceremony is therefore a testimony that the City Council will spare no effort in providing electricity to the majority of our residents, in line with the vision of the central government and the SWAPO Party election manifesto. The manifesto serves as a tool of trade for all functionaries of the central, regional and local governments, irrespective of their political allegiance – for everyone is expected to implement the promises that we made to the voters. Councillors should never lose focus and must always be responsive to the needs of the people from whom they derived the mandate.

The successful and timely completion of this electrification project will therefore be a sign of progress, as well as a source of hope and pride for a further 1200 house owners in Otjomuise and Havana. This

is because the darkness in parts of Otjomuise, here in Khomasdal Constituency and parts of Havana in the Moses Garoeb Constituency will soon be a thing of the past.

In the near future, residents of Om'gulu-goombashe, Kilimanjaro, Babylon and One Nation, and many other settlements will also receive the same service.

**Honourable Councillors, Esteemed residents,**

As I have already alluded to, this project will cost Council a total of **N\$ 14 million**. These are public funds well spent, and I can only applaud the City Council for this noble undertaking.

I would like to encourage the City 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 lobby for more funds for Local Authorities, because it is you who are working closer to the electorate, and therefore are familiar with their needs and aspirations. Our goal should focus on the now, hard work.

**I thank you!**