



SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. SAM NUJOMA, FOUNDING
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE NAMIBIAN NATION, ON THE
OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING AND HANDOVER OF
NORED'S CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)
ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS

FRIDAY, 08 NOVEMBER 2019,

OPINGI LOCATION,

OKAHAO TOWN

OMUSATI REGION

*Check Against Delivery

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(Reg No 8208)

Director of Proceedings;

Honourable Andrew Shintama, Regional Councillor of Ruacana Constituency, representing the Governor of Omusati Region at this event;
Honourable Leonard Shikulo, Regional Councillor of Okahao Constituency;
Honourable Junias Amukete, Regional Councillor of Tsandi Constituency;
Honourable Gerard Shiimi, Member of Parliament and Regional Councillor of Elim Constituency;
Honourable Johannes Iyambo, Regional Councillor of Otamanzi Constituency;
Your Worship the Mayor of Okahao Town Council;
Tatekulu Johannes Shoombe Mupiya, Omukwaniilwa gwOshitunda shAngandjera;
Honourable Dr. Sacky Kayone, Chairman of NORED Board of Directors and all Board of Directors Members present;
Esteemed Mr Fillemon Nakashole, Chief Executive Officer of NORED;
Esteemed Chief Regional Officer of Omusati Regional Council, Mr. Gervasius Kashindi
Esteemed Chief Executive Officer of Okahao Town;
Aasimanekwa Aakwaniilwa amushe nOmalenga Omanene nomashona gwOpamuthigululwakalo;
Aasimanekwa Aawiliki yOpambepo mwaholoka mpaka;
Distinguished Invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to have been invited to address you on this occasion marking the commissioning and handing over of NORED'S four (4) electrification projects as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Electrification Programme.

Indeed, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, through its long term Vision 2030 and consecutive National Development Plans, has identified the need to invest in a strong network of economic infrastructure designed to support the country's medium and long-term economic and social objectives.

In this regard, energy infrastructure, specifically, electricity has been recognised as one of the key sectors that has become part of the essential basic human needs and a positive force driving all factors of national development and economic activities.

Against this background, NORED, through its Corporate Social Responsibility Programme, has done a commendable job by providing and increasing access to electricity in rural areas and communities in peripheral areas of our urban centres.

I am therefore pleased to officiate at the commissioning and handing over of NORED'S four (4) electrification projects as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Electrification Programme, Namely;

- electrification of Shack Dwellers in Okalongo Settlement,
- upgrading of lighting at Omahila Police Permanent Roadblock,
- electrification of Opingi location in Okahao Town and lastly,
- installation of two (2) High Mast Lights at Oshikuku Town.

Indeed, I am reliably informed that the electrification of Opingi location and Shack Dwellers informal settlements were completed in September 2019. At Shack Dwellers in Okalongo Settlement, NORED has upgraded a transformer and installed ABC lines to provide access to the houses, the surrounding extensions and communities.

Whereas, here at Opingi location in Okahao, NORED has installed a transformer, streetlights and a kiosk to provide residents with access to electricity.

Altogether a total of three hundred and forty **(340) customers** are expected to be connected and gain access to grid electricity. Thus, residents at these localities can now apply to NORED for electricity connections into their homes and businesses.

In addition, I am further informed that NORED, as a stakeholder for road safety, has installed streetlights at Omahila Permanent Roadblock to provide lighting and improve visibility for the Namibian Police personnel at night.

This is an on-going initiative, and thus far, NORED in consultation with the Namibian Regional Police Commanders, has electrified nine (9) permanent roadblocks, and these are:

- Omahila Roadblock near Outapi Town;
- Alpha Roadblock near Opuwo Town;
- Mpungu Roadblock at Mpungu in Kavango West Region;
- Diyona Roadblock in Kavango East Region;
- Lizelo Roadblock between Katima Mulilo and Kongola Road;
- Kalimbeza Roadblock between Katima Mulilo and Bukalo Road;
- Oshiko Roadblock in Ongwediva;
- Oushake Roadblock near Eenhana; and
- Oshivelo Check in Oshikoto Region;

I am again informed that NORED has installed two (2) High Mast Lights at Extensions 2 and 4 in Oshikuku town that will provide much needed aerial lighting to the two extensions to improve the visibility at night and hence contribute to the safety of the residents and reduce crime in these localities.

I am thus proud and delighted to announce that NORED, through its Corporate Social Investment Programme, has financed these four (4) electrification projects at a tune of a whopping One point Sixteen Million Namibia Dollars **(N\$1.16 million)**. Let us give them a thundering round of applauses to show our appreciations to NORED for the Job well done!

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen;

Indeed, the commissioning of the four projects today proves NORED's commitment to fulfil the aspirations of our Government to close the access gaps and improve the well-being and quality of life of our people as well as their social and economic conditions through the provision of access to electricity.

I believe that electrification of these communities will serve as a game-changer with numerous benefits that will not only improve the standard of living but also boost the peri-urban economic activities through small and medium enterprises.

Apart from that, learners in these communities will now be able to study at night thereby improving their academic performance. For this reason, allow me to call upon our learners to study very hard because now the sky is the limit.

On that note, I would like to commend NORED, who has once again demonstrated that they are a dependable development partner, for this laudable illustration of good will by ploughing back into these communities.

Moreover, I am pleased to have been informed and note that the design and construction works for the installation of ABC lines of this project was done internally, by NORED's own Engineers and technical team while the installation for the High Masts Lights was done by a local contractor called BDI Contractors.

I would therefore like to applaud NORED for engaging and empowering a local contractor, as this form part of the aspirations of our Government's Vision 2030 to have an industrialised country developed by its own human resources.

At this juncture, allow me also to extend my congratulations to NORED Team, Omusati Regional Council, Oshikuku Town Council, Okahao Town Council, and all key stakeholders for the role they played in the realisation of these projects.

I urge you all to continue sharing ideas and consult one another to work towards the accomplishments of our common developmental objectives in accordance with the aims and aspirations of the people of the Republic of Namibia.

In conclusion, I would like to call upon the people who are living in these two extensions and entire Omusati Region to guard against vandalism and electricity theft. Let us have zero cases of electricity theft, illegal connections and building under the power lines.

These criminal and destructive behaviours are safety violation and punishable by court of law.

Let us work together as I always say *"a people united, striving to achieve common good for all members of society, will always emerge victorious"*.

With these few words, it is now my pleasure to declare the NORED'S four (4) electrification projects, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Electrification Programme, officially commissioned.

I thank you!