



Remarks

By

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Representative**

Official Launch of the Solar Panels

26 July, 2017

UN House

Windhoek, Namibia

Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy Kornelia Shilunga

Your Worship the Deputy- Mayor of the City of Windhoek
Councilor Fransina Kahungu

Senior Government Officials

UN Country Team Members

Members of the Renewable Energy Industry Association of
Namibia

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the UN House, for the official launch of our newly installed rooftop Solar Panels.

We see this launch, as an opportunity to showcase best practice, in terms of the use of renewable energy in support of Namibian, and global efforts, to combat climate change.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The recently agreed Sustainable Development Agenda, identifies clean energy as an integral part of the global strategy to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.

Specifically, Goal 13 of the 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) speaks to Climate Change, while Goal 7, aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

UN Namibia has installed 400 individual solar panels which at peak are currently generating approximately 100 Kilowatt of electricity per hour. Just one month after these panels were installed, UN Namibia has noted a reduction of approximately 50% in electricity consumption from the main city grid. We expect this reduction to peak at 60% over the next few months.

The UN in Namibia has already benefited through direct savings on our electricity bill, by some N\$ 60,000 per month. We are confident that we will eventually be able to feed-in surplus electricity to the grid, through the government's net-metering initiative.

In addition, we are happy to announce a partnership with the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) which is based here in Windhoek. We will jointly work on improving the lighting concept at the UN house, to further reduce our electricity consumption, and become a showcase for demonstration of the impact of energy efficiency measures.

Hon Deputy Minister,

When it comes to Namibia, we understand that we will not accelerate development, nor eradicate poverty, if we do not find solutions to Namibia's energy challenges.

Namibia is blessed with excellent renewable energy resources such as solar and wind.

However, only 50.4% of Namibian households have access to electricity, and more than half the country continues to rely on traditional biomass for cooking. ¹

The good news is:

- That the NDP5 (5th National Development Plan) and the Harambee Prosperity Plan, have both prioritized clean power for growth of industry, job creation and to ensure a healthy and educated nation.
- The 2016 National Renewable Energy Policy has just been approved by Cabinet this month, and is focused on growing the renewable energy sector.
- The procurement process for the 37 MW Solar PV plant near Mariental, has been completed and will be operational by 2018.

¹ National Renewable Energy Policy for the Republic of Namibia
Final Draft, September 2016

- During the 2016/17 financial year, Namibia spent N\$ 39 million, country wide, electrifying 31 public institutions, numerous households and business centers.²

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations Partnership Framework with Government (UNPAF) 2014-2017 identifies energy and the environment, as strategic areas of UN support to Namibia's sustainable development agenda.

As an example, The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has:

Supported Namibia to develop "Concentrated Solar Power Technology Transfer for Electricity Generation" project (CSP TT NAM). Using modern technology to concentrate a large area of direct sunlight onto a small area to generate electricity through solar power.

The project was spear headed by the Ministry of Mines and Energy and was co-funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), through the UNDP to the value of US\$1.8 million.

² BUDGET SPEECH 2017/2018
Minister of Mines and Energy

- The recently launched Law Enforcement and Wildlife Training Centre for anti-poaching in Waterberg is also powered by solar energy.
- Similarly, at Etosha various wildlife boreholes and the Gate are also being powered by solar energy through collaboration with GEF and the MET.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

And in conclusion, the UN in Namibia your partner of choice, remains committed to supporting the government to ensure that renewable energy continues to become a greater part of Namibia's energy mix; and becomes a powerful tool for Namibia in its quest to accelerate development and eradicate poverty sustainably.

Our shift to renewable energy is a part of this commitment.

I thank you.