



Republic of Namibia

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

KEY NOTE ADDRESS

BY:

ANNA N. SHIWEDA, MP

DEPUTY MINISTER

**AT THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE
GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE NORTH OF NAMIBIA PROJECT**

27 MAY 2019

EENHANA

OHANGWENA REGION

Director of Ceremonies;

Honourable Usko Nghaamwa, Governor of Ohangwena Region

Honourable Amos Nangolo, His Worship the Mayor of Eenhana Town

Mr Walde Ndevashiya, CEO Eenhana Town Council

Honourable Regional Councillors

Prof. Dr. Thomas Himmelsbach, Vice President Federal Institute for Geoscience and Natural Resources (BGR);

Mr Abraham Nehemia, CEO Namwater

Senior Officials of MAWF and Namwater;

Representatives of BGR present;

Distinguished Guests;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

As you may be aware, we assembled here today to officially and “close” the project “Groundwater Management” in the North of Namibia” that was successfully implemented between the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and the Federal Institute for Geoscience and Natural Resources (BGR), funded by the German Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation.

Namibia believes the importance of mutual benefits in the developments of her natural resources. It is for this reason that MAWF, **BGR** and Namwater, have been cooperating in the field of groundwater management for the past 12 years. This cooperation has been bearing fruits, and in 2012 resulted in the discovery of a vast groundwater reservoir in the north of Namibia called

“Ohangwena -II-Aquifer” which is located directly deep under our feet here in Ohangwena Region.

Given the droughts that have been experienced in this region and in the whole country for the past 5 – 6 consecutive years, this reservoir is considered as one of the strategic sources that can be utilised to mitigate effects of drought in terms of water supply in this region and beyond.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is therefore supporting the development of this aquifer. Currently, three boreholes have been established at Eenhana and one borehole at Omundaungilo where drinking water is supplied to the people. Additionally four boreholes has been drilled at Oshandi to supply the Omafo, Eenhana The last major activity of the project will be the construction of a defluoridation plant, which will make this area independent from any surface water supply in times of drought!

However, in order to fully develop and utilize the resource, additional infrastructure in terms of boreholes, power supply, water treatment facilities and pipeline distribution network, will be required. This goes hand in hand with proper planning and financial resource mobilization.

Director of Ceremonies
Ladies and Gentlemen

The Namibian Constitution, through Article 95 (l) calls for, among others, the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and the utilisation of living natural resources on sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future”. It is for this reason that the principle of **sustainability** is a

core guiding principle in the formulation and implementation of all our Agriculture, Water and Forestry Policies.

Therefore, the other outcomes of our cooperation, namely the new national groundwater database, called GROWAS II, numerous guidelines and a state-of-the-art monitoring network including telemetric stations are befitting as they will assist us to respond to the provisions of the supreme law of our country the constitution, and to implement our policies on the development and utilisation of our water resources more effectively.

I am especially happy to learn that the project successfully focused on the training and education of young Namibian water experts that proved their skills on the job as well as during national and international water conferences. Given the harsh climatic conditions in our country, it is of vital importance that even with this project coming to an end, all developed strategies and procedures are maintained and further developed!

The Government is fully aware that water resources, including groundwater are vulnerable to misuse and are under constant threat of being polluted. Based on these facts, the Ministry decided to put measures in place in order to ensure that water resources in this aquifer are protected, and are exploited and utilised in a sustainable manner. These measures can only be effective if all stakeholders cooperate and work together towards the long term preservation of the aquifer.

One way of harnessing and enhancing this cooperation among stakeholders is the creation of awareness and promotion of knowledge among the beneficiaries of the aquifer on its nature and value, as well as to educate them on how to prevent negative developments in order to safeguard this water source. To this effect, the Ministry through BGR Project developed educational material that is used in awareness and education

campaigns in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. This materials include a comic educational book called "*the incredible Adventure of H2O and his friends*", sets of posters, a first animation film and an outstanding, price winning documentation film called "Omeva" produced by young learners from Eenhana!

Director of Ceremonies

Ladies and Gentlemen

In conclusion, I would like to sincerely thank the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, and in particular BGR for the financial and technical support that was provided to Namibia during the research work on the aquifer. I would also like to thank the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and Namwater who participated in the research work. The leadership of Ohangwena Region, made up of the Regional Councils, Local Authorities and the Communities is appreciated for their cooperation extended to the various teams. Without this support, the project could not have been successful.

It might be one of the smallest projects in terms of funds in the German – Namibia Technical Cooperation, but in terms of its outcomes, it has the biggest impact, as the new groundwater resource will bring water security and help the economic development of this region and beyond if used appropriately and sustainably. This was possible because of the outstanding performance and spirit of cooperation of each of the many individuals working on this project. I dearly hope that the end of this project will not be the end of our cooperation, but will be a token of what can be achieved with dedication, friendship and sharing of skills and will thus mark a starting point for future projects!

THANK YOU