



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

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**STATEMENT**

**by**

**Honourable Mr John Mutorwa, MP and  
Minister of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF)**

**On occasion of**

**Marking the ending of the EU Namibia Water and  
Sanitation (NAWASA) funding programme for the  
Water and Sanitation Sector (WATSAN)**

**Windhoek, Namibia**

**16 March 2017.**

- **Director of Ceremonies, The Acting Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry;**
- **Your Excellency, Ambassador of the EU Delegation;**
- **Senior Government Officials;**
- **Representatives of the Media;**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning!

1. The European Union (EU) has been, still is and hopefully may continue to be a reliable and dependable Developmental Partner, in the various Sectors of the Namibian socio-economic-educational developmental spheres.
2. It therefore gives me immense pleasure to represent the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN), through the MAWF, at this occasion of the ending of the EU Namibia Water and Sanitation (NAWASA) funding programme for the Water and Sanitation Sector.
3. The overall policy objectives of the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in our Country, are to improve the provision of water supply and sanitation services, to both urban and rural communities. Water and Sanitation interventions are implemented through several players. In order to achieve the objectives of the sector, inputs from a multitude of actors are required. MAWF through Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination (DWSSC) engages all sector stakeholders to create an enabling environment for all to make a positive contribution, individually and collectively.
4. The Namibian Water Supply and Sanitation Programme (NAWASA) Special Account, supported by the European Commission, was established in January 2011, to support the functions of the Water and Sanitation Sector (WATSAN). The overall objective of the

NAWASA funding is to contribute to improved access to potable water and to appropriate means of sanitation for the Namibian population. The initial funding was Euro18million, and was later increased to Euro36 million. According to the Financing Agreement, EU disburses the funds through a treasury account.

5. Since the inception of the NAWASA programme, the acquittal of the funds received, has been based on MAWF audited financial accounts, with an assumption that the funds are allocated to MAWF on behalf of the water and sanitation sector, MAWF having the mandate to coordinate the water and sanitation sector of Namibia.
6. The DWSSC, as the coordinating body for the WATSAN sector, played a leading role, in the budget cycle for the sector, including the build-up to the budget formulation. One of the assumptions when the NAWASA programme was designed was that: the sector would develop a WATSAN Sector Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). The process of developing the WATSAN Sector MTEF initially proved to be a challenge, partly due to fragmented and poorly coordinated inter-ministerial budget planning for WATSAN interventions, but has been a success, eventually.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

7. The water and sanitation sector (WATSAN) has been characterised by both achievements and challenges:
  - 7.1. Namibia over the years made commendable achievements in the water sector, where according to the 2013 Namibia Demographic and Health Survey Report, over 87% of the households in Namibia have access to improved water supply.
  - 7.2. A number of programme actions to improve access to water and ensure water security, have been implemented, amongst others the construction of Neckartal National Dam in the

//Kharas Region, Berseba Constituency, which is 61% complete. Also completed was the construction of the following projects:

1. Katima Mulilo-Ngoma Water Pipeline Phase 2; (up to Bukalo);
2. Katima Mulilo-Kongola Water Pipeline Phase 1 and 2; and
3. Water supply to displaced communities in the Kavango East Region and Kavango West Region, respectively: Shamvhura-Shamangorwa Water Supply Pipeline and Mupini Water Supply Pipeline.

Some of the projects under implementation include:

1. Ondangwa-Omuntele Pipeline Extension;
2. litapa-Okeeholongo Water Supply Scheme Phase 1; and
3. Otjimbingwe Rural Water Supply.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

8. The fact is and surely remains: until everyone has access to adequate sanitation facilities, the quality of water supplies, will be undermined and people will continue to die from waterborne and water-related diseases.
9. To benefit human health, it is vital for us as a Country and as Government, to further accelerate progress on sanitation, particularly in rural and underserved areas, such as informal settlements, in our Cities and Towns.
10. Therefore, through the NAWASA funding, the Ministry has been able to increase access to drinking water and sanitation services, achieved through sustained commitment, additional financial resources and effective implementation approaches.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

11. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF), through the Directorate for Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination (DWSSC) and working in collaboration with the Water Supply and Sanitation Fora is responsible to monitor sector performance.
12. Let me also take this opportunity to acknowledge that: over the years, the funding for the sector has been increasing, however, this platform has to take note and discuss on one of the emerging risk with regard to the sector funding.
13. I therefore, appeal to the development partners here today to seriously consider the need for continued support to address the water and sanitation issues in Namibia. Ending of the NAWASA Funding and withdrawal of other support at this juncture, may result in eroding some of the gains that have been accrued and achieved to date.
14. As we close the chapter on this Programme, we need to reflect on our achievements, outstanding key issues and challenges encountered, during the period under review, and forecast our targets for 2017-2018 and beyond, with precision.
15. Access to water, access to sanitation, is first and foremost: the access to dignity! We no longer remain silent, whilst lack of access to water and sanitation takes a tragic and daily toll on lives of the people especially women and girls, in our Country.
16. I extend the GRN's sincere appreciation and gratitude for the generous and valuable financial support from the European Union (EU), who have supported us as a sector, to reach this stage. We

hope to reach another agreement and that, we can continue to count on the EU's support to realize universal access to potable water and improved sanitation by the year 2030.

17. The EU's active and visible valuable support and that of many others is still needed to solve the sanitation challenges in our Country. Improved sanitation is achievable. Let's make it a reality, one day, in our Country. Many unsolved challenges still remain. Where there is a WILL, there certainly is a WAY!
18. I thank you all, most sincerely!