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**OFFICIAL CLOSURE ( CUVEWATER PROJECT:  
STATEMENT BY JOHN MUTORWA, MP AND MINISTER OF  
AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY (MAWF); 25 NOVEMBER  
2015, 10H00, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA.**

1. The invitation extended to the MAWF, through my person, to attend the farewell event, celebrating the official closure of the CUVEWATER Project, is hereby publicly and graciously appreciated.
2. The idea to conceptualize and actually develop the CUVEWATER Project by the Namibian and German partners is TEN (10) years old, today. The project commenced, approximately, in 2004/2005.
3. Namibia's Water Resources Management Act, amongst others, make provision for the establishment of BASINS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (BMC's). The fundamental role or objective for the establishment of the BMC is to ensure the judicious, sustainable utilization and management of water resources. Furthermore, the BMC must ensure that water is efficiently used in a participatory and transparent way, at the community level.
4. Three challenges were identified and the CUVEWATER PROJECT was tasked to address and solve those challenges. These challenges were or are:

- (a) Sanitation and hygiene problems; particularly in fast growing towns;
  - (b) Using natural phenomena of floods and rain water, to turn such water into and economic commodity;
  - (c) Saline, groundwater and the challenge how to desalinate such saline groundwater.
5. In the scientific research, conducted by and through the CUVEWATER PROJECT, the MAWF was especially and particularly interested in how saline groundwater, in some parts of Namibia's NORTH CENTRAL REGIONS (Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Oshana, Omusati) could be desalinated. Furthermore the CUVEWATER PROJECT did also assist with the technology of water harvesting – using such water to develop literally barren land and turn such barren land into green gardens, producing food, as a consequence thereof.
6. The MAWF hereby pronounces and confirms that: the CUVEWATER PROJECT was successfully implemented. Besides the technological infrastructures provided, capacity building was also a major success. The project has trained Namibians, who, today have acquired the technical knowledge and skills. Communities were empowered and indeed, have gained the necessary knowledge, experience and skills to grow vegetables with harvested rain water – thereby enhancing the living standards, at the household levels in the Rural areas?

7. Indeed, CuveWater Project was literally broken new grounds, by pursuing the so-called SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL approach.
8. We thank CuveWaters Project, also, for having established a community health club, in its sanitation project, through which the community learnt about hygiene and sanitation practices.
9. The sub-project of the CuveWaters Project, WATER REUSE and sanitation, deserves special mention. Waste treatment and water reuse, is not completely new in Namibia, since the water supply in Windhoek, also uses reused water. Through the CuveWater Project, Outapi, the capital of Omusati Region, has its own reuse plant. The treated water us used for irrigation purposes and the residues of the treatment could be used to generate energy.
10. The seed that the CuveWaters Project has planted, almost TEN years ago, has surely germinated and has grown, under careful supervision. The Project has reached the point of it standing on its own feet! Surely, the MAWF will need somebody, whom we could regard as a contact person, beyond the closing day. CuveWaters, with its partners, namely: MAWF, Town Councils, Regional Councils, Universities, Basin Committees must continue to solidly cooperate, in order to ensure that: the Projects are further developed, expanded, modernized and scaled up! Thank you all!