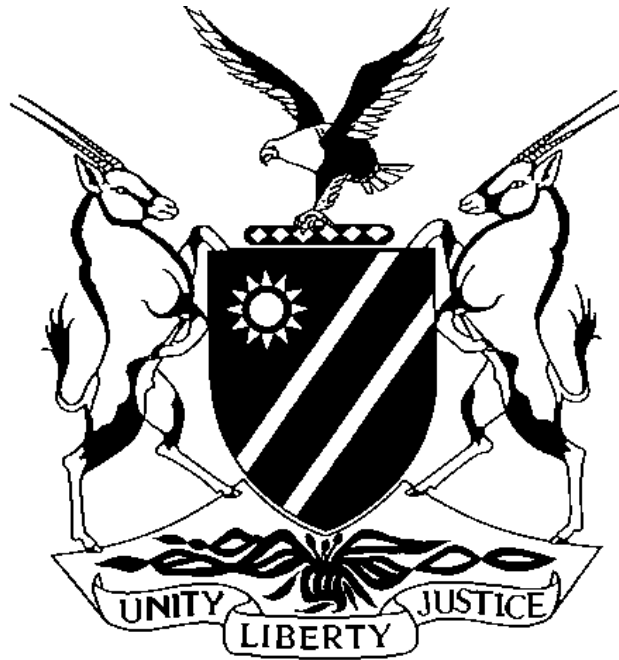


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



ADDRESS BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBWA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
NAMIBIA, AT THE OCCASION OF THE COMMISSIONING OF THE CAPRIVI LINK  
INTERCONNECTOR TRANSMISSION LINE

12 NOVEMBER 2010

KATIMA MULILO  
CAPRIVI REGION

*\*Check Against Delivery*

Director of Ceremonies,  
Your Excellency, Mr. Rupia Banda, President of the Republic of Zambia,  
Your Excellency, Mr. Robert G Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe,  
Your Excellency, Lieutenant-General Ian Khama Seretse Khama, President of the Republic of Botswana,  
Honourable Asser Kapere, Chairman of the National Council,  
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers,  
Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr Augusto Salomáó,  
Honourable Governor of Caprivi Region,  
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,  
Chief Executives of utilities,  
Distinguished Invited Guests,  
Members of the Media,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, I would like to warmly welcome Their Excellencies the Presidents of Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe to this special occasion, marking the official commissioning of the Caprivi Link Interconnector, which is an important power infrastructure for our region.

I wish to express my profound gratitude and deep appreciation to Your Excellencies for honouring us with your presence at this ceremony.

The Caprivi Link Interconnector Project involved the construction of two convertor stations, one at the Zambezi sub-station where we were earlier today and where I performed a symbolic switching on of the line, and another one at Gerus sub-station near Otjiwarongo in the Otjozondjupa Region, which is about 950 km from here.

It also involved the construction of the 350 kV High Voltage Direct Current transmission line connecting the two sub-stations, which is designed to transmit power to the maximum capacity of 600 MW.

In 2008, we met at this same venue with the late President Levi Mwanawasa and jointly commissioned the 220kV Victoria Falls – Zambezi transmission line which is an extension of the Caprivi Link. At that time, the Caprivi Link Interconnector was still in its embryonic stage of development, but we were very clear about the long-term strategy.

The past decade will go down in the history of SADC as a time characterised by high demand for electricity, resulting from increased economic and social development efforts in our region.

However, it is encouraging to note that during the last five years, power utilities in the region have been extremely busy with significant power development initiatives aimed at alleviating imminent power shortages. These include short-, medium and long-term generation and transmission projects.

Given the immensity of the task, our Governments should continue supporting the commendable work done by our power utilities in addressing the power situation in the region.

Director of Ceremonies,

The presence of my counterparts from Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe at this occasion bears testimony of firstly, the importance that SADC governments attach to sustainable power generation as a catalyst for economic development and the commitment of Member States to regional integration and cooperation. The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) has elevated the Caprivi Link Interconnector to be one of its priority projects by virtue of its regional strategic importance.

I wish to emphasize that optimal utilisation of this transmission line, which connects the Zambian and Namibian electricity networks, will be further enhanced by the completion of the envisaged ZIZABONA Interconnection, which will link Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia.

In this regard, I would like to underline the vital need for SADC Member States to continue supporting measures aimed at the implementation of the ZIZABONA Interconnector, which has been registered as a priority SADC project. I believe it is in our common best interests to market and motivate this project to potential investors and financiers. In the same breath, I invite potential investors to team up with NamPower for Phase 2 of the Caprivi Link Interconnector. The second phase is very important because it will strengthen the link between the Northern and Southern members of Southern African Power Pool.

On the domestic front, the Government of Namibia, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy and our implementing agent, NamPower, has been vigorously pursuing several power generation and transmission projects, to enhance and increase the current capacity.

These include:

- a) The Hwange Power Station Rehabilitation Project that commenced in 2007. The 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the four rehabilitated units was completed at the end of March 2010. This was then followed by a complete financial audit of the work in June 2010. This project has been mutually beneficial for Zimbabwe and Namibia and has been hailed as a good model for bilateral cooperation in the SADC region.
- b) The construction of the N\$ 375 million 22 MW Anixas heavy-fuel diesel power plant at Walvis Bay, which has commenced and is due for completion by March 2011.
- c) The Ruacana Fourth Unit Project, involving the installation of the fourth 92 MW generation unit, which will increase the capacity of the power station from the current 240 MW to 320 MW, expected to be completed by March 2012 at a cost of N\$ 750 million.
- d) The 200 to 400 MW Walvis Bay Coal-Fired Power Station is one of the projects where Independent Power Producers (IPP) can come on board once an environmental clearance

has been obtained from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, the site of which is located in the Erongo Region.

- e) The Orange River Hydro Power Plants Project is on-going. Phase 1 of the Feasibility Study for the development of small scale hydro power plants along the lower Orange River is expected to be completed by end 2013. Research has shown that the lower Orange River holds potential for an additional generation potential of between 80 MW to 120 MW.
- f) The Kudu Gas-to-Power Power Project remains a crucial project where investors are urgently needed to team up with NamPower on the downstream development of the envisaged 800 MW power station at Oranjemund.
- g) Baynes Hydro Power Plant: This Hydro Project on the Cunene River Basin is spearheaded by the Namibia-Angola Permanent Joint Technical Commission (PJTC) on behalf of the two governments. The final phase of the techno-economic study is expected to be completed early next year.

Director of Ceremonies,

Southern Africa is endowed with diverse natural resources. The time has come for us to join hands to harness renewable resources, such as solar energy and water resources for the betterment of the living standards of our people. Yes, some of these projects will take time to realise, but there is nothing preventing us from sharing resources by signing Power Purchase and Wheeling Agreements with neighbouring countries and optimise the utilisation of the vast energy resources in the region.

I wish to thank the contractors for the successful implementation of the project and for the transfer of the needed skills to local companies during the execution of this project. This is a crucial component in strengthening the technical expertise required by the energy sector in Namibia and the region as a whole. Equally, I wish to commend our national utility, Nampower for ensuring that this project becomes a success.

Allow me also to extend, on behalf of the government and the people of Namibia, our appreciation to the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN), European Investment Bank (EIB), the German Development Bank (KfW) and the French Development Bank (AFD) for their financial support towards this project.

I also wish to express my appreciation to the Regional Authorities in whose areas the projects are implemented for their unwavering support so far and urge them to continue throwing their weight behind all planned infrastructure development projects.

Our Government remains committed towards the development of infrastructure throughout the country to ensure that the goals and objectives of Vision 2030 are realised.

It is now my distinct honour to declare the Caprivi Link Interconnector officially commissioned.

I THANK YOU