

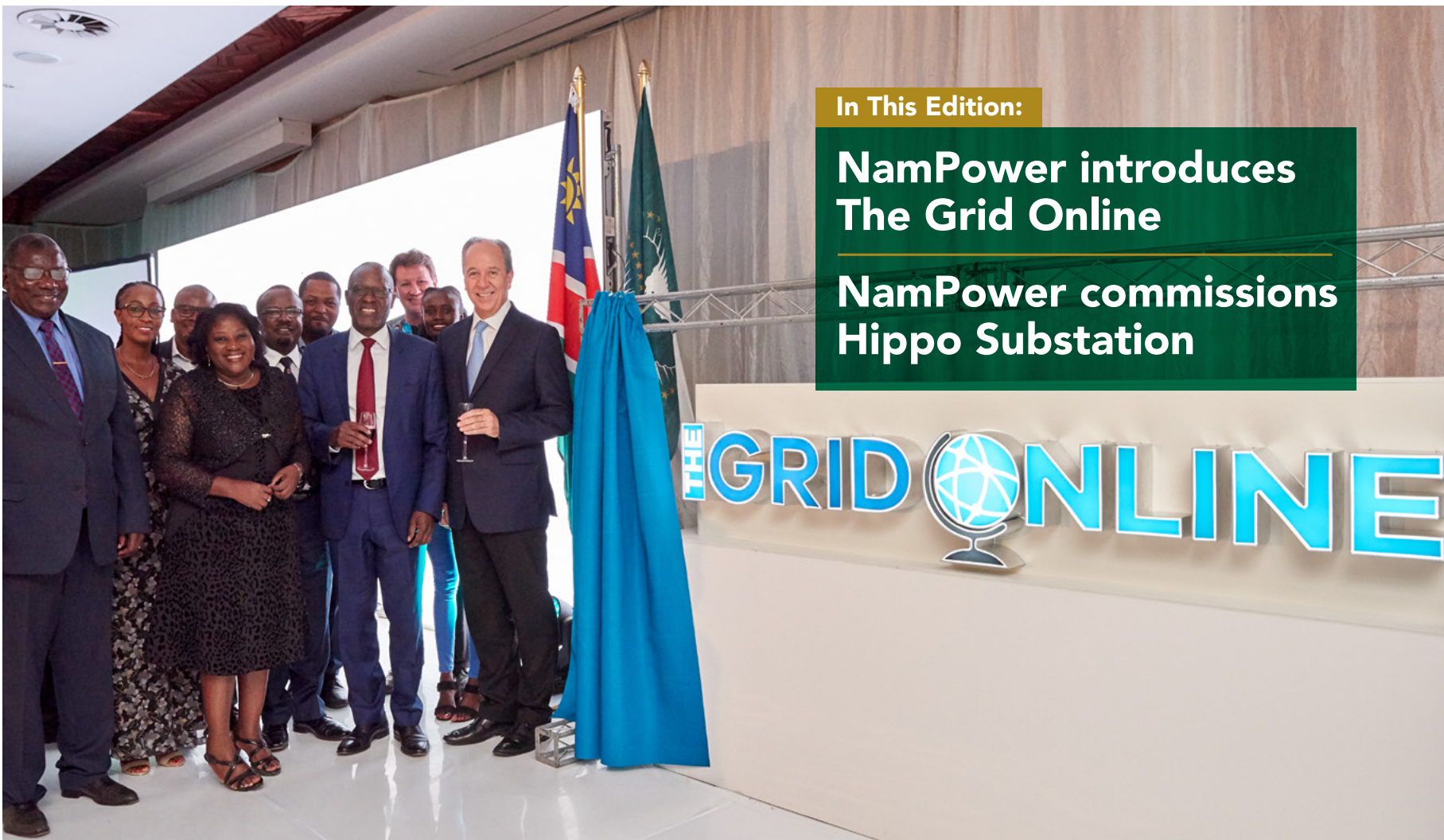
# Watts on

The Official Newsletter of NamPower *Edition 1 - 2019*

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# NamPower introduces The Grid Online



**NamPower has launched a new fibre optic broadband service to be known as “The Grid Online”. The company’s new service offering was launched in March 2019 by the Minister of Mines and Energy, Hon Tom Alweendo.**

The Grid Online is targeted at telecommunications service providers and wholesale clients, and will provide Namibia with much needed additional national telecommunications bandwidth, creating an openly accessible framework for all service providers to make use of the valuable fibre optic asset, regardless of whether they may be start-ups or already established businesses.

NamPower has over the years invested significantly into its fibre optic network, which forms part of the company’s transmission lines. The fibre optic network is critical to the operation and management of the NamPower transmission grid, as it plays a critical role in ensuring grid security. In addition, fibre optics are a core component of the SAPP control network. As a result, spare capacity available on NamPower’s fibre optic network has the potential to provide additional managed services to telecommunications service providers, birthing The Grid Online.

It is NamPower’s ambition that this new venture will contribute to the growth of the telecommunications industry for the benefit of the operators and the nation at large, and will enable Namibia to become a networking hub for the entire southern African region, and the world at large. As part of NamPower’s newly launched 5-year Corporate Strategy and Business Plan, under the theme “Driving Organizational and Operational Excellence”, NamPower envisions to coordinate the development of new products and services to the benefit of existing and future customers, under the Business Development and Innovation function. Thus, the Grid Online is testament to NamPower’s new strategic direction.



# Namibia hosts 52nd SAPP Meeting



**Namibia hosted the 52nd Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) meeting in February 2019, attended by counterparts in the electricity supply industry from various countries across Southern Africa. The meeting focused on affordability, reliability and sustainability of electricity supply in the region.**

Primary to the SADC agenda is the stimulation of regional economic growth through industrialization, and the success of this agenda hinges on access to reliable and affordable electricity supply. Cognisant of this, and speaking at the opening ceremony, Hon Kornelia Shilunga, Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy, said that the Ministry has developed the National Integrated Resource Plan (NIRP) - a 20 year development plan for Namibia's electricity supply industry, spanning the period 2016-2035. In addition, the Government in collaboration with the Electricity Control Board aim to liberate the supply of electricity in Namibia through the introduction of the Modified Single Buyer (MSB) market model. The MSB market model will allow eligible independent power

producers to generate and sell electricity output directly to contestable customers.

NamPower together with the Government continues to work towards the realisation of Short to Medium generation projects such as the Standby HFO 50 MW Plant at Walvis Bay, 40 MW Wind Farm, 20MW PV Plant at Omburu, and a 40MW Biomass Plant at Tsumeb, among others. These projects will allow NamPower to leverage low-cost energy supply in Southern Africa and also remain relevant once the introduction of the Modified Single Buyer market model commences.

## **About SAPP**

Energy trading between utilities started in 1950, after the dealing of an energy trade agreement between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. Other countries in the region followed suit in 1995, the year the SAPP was founded. SAPP is the first and advanced power pool in Africa. NamPower joined the SAPP in 1990 to form part of a greater network and to benefit from available power supplies and trans-national contracts in the region.



# NamPower commissions Hippo Substation



**The ever increasing economic and social activities in northern Namibia has necessitated the upgrading of the northern transmission system to ensure that it satisfies the requirements of the expected future demand for electricity. This effort has culminated in the design and construction of NamPower's new 132kV Hippo Substation near Ruacana, in northern Namibia.**

The Hippo Substation was completed and energised in August 2018, and will supply areas such as Outapi, Etunda, Calueque (water supply to the north), Ondjiva (RNT), Opuwo and station auxiliary supply to the Ruacana Power Station for extended durations.

The substation is situated approximately 300 meters from the Ruacana Power Station and is NamPower's first Breaker and Half substation. A standard substation layout consist of one breaker per feeder, where in a breaker and half arrangement, two opposite feeders (called a diameter) share an additional breaker. This improves the reliability of the substation compared to the standard double busbar arrangement.

The Hippo Substation consists of two breaker and half diameters and two 80MVA 330/132 kV transformers. Space was allowed for a future third diameter that can be used for a feeder to Angola and a future connection to Kunene Substation.



# NamPower honours long serving Employees

**NamPower has always considered its strength to lie in its people, as it believes that a company is only as great as its employees. NamPower is proud to be home to employees who have dedicated many years of their lives diligently serving the company, and we bestow honour to these great employees.**



After 46 years and 10 months of service, **Willie Sowden** will retire in August 2019. Willie started his career in NamPower at Van Eck Power Station in 1972, and navigated his way through different ranks and stations, and finally into the position he currently holds as Warehouse Officer at Brakwater. "NamPower afforded me the opportunity to go for a variety of trainings throughout the years, and they helped me better my job related skills. When I first joined NamPower, everything was done with pen and paper".

In the same vein that NamPower honors Mr Sowden, he also praises NamPower for its esteemed employee benefits that allowed him and his family to have lived comfortably for decades. "My children were all educated through the NamPower Dependant Bursary Scheme, and above that, my family and I were blessed with great medical aid cover, and the security of a great provident fund too".

When asked what makes him proud to be a part of NamPower, the following are his sentiments: At NamPower, we are one happy family. If there is a problem, we sort it out among ourselves. We don't consult unions, newspapers or outsiders. At NamPower we believe that teamwork is important, Whenever colleagues approached me with faults, I assist to the best of my ability. And I dedicate every day to plough back to NamPower and to the public. I have always enjoyed my job at NamPower, and that is the reason I have never left the company".

## NamPower honours long serving Employees *(continued)*



**Wilbard Johannes** joined NamPower on 18 September 1981, and will too retire in August 2019 after 38 years of committed service. He started his career as a Painter under Civil Maintenance: Properties Section. Tate Johannes reminisces fondly about his earlier years as an employee in SWAWEK, describing them as peaceful years where all colleagues were united as teammates, working hard and committed to uphold the company's reputation. "Since the day I joined NamPower, I have had no desire to leave this company because at NamPower we work with no fear of any type of oppression, we have freedom. Working for NamPower has greatly enriched my life. My children were financially assisted through the NamPower Dependant Bursary Scheme, and my whole family has lived under the safety of a great medical aid covering".

With his retirement day getting closer, Tate Johannes leaves an encouragement to his fellow colleagues to strive to create a working environment of peace and respect among each other. "May you continue to put your work first, and not bring any disrepute to the name of our company through absenteeism, alcoholism and a lack of discipline. Maintain this company, the same way it was maintained by us, and those who came before us". Tate Johannes will enjoy his retirement in his village in Omuthiya, in the Oshikoto Region.

**NamPower wishes both Willie and Wilbard well.**



# NamPower in Pictures

NamPower undertook a corporate photography project in effort to capture new images of all things NamPower, as the current corporate library pictures proved outdated. Christian Stiebahl was

appointed as the photographer for this project and has travelled across the country to capture a library of corporate images. The following are some of his captures.





