

# Watts on

The Official Newsletter of NamPower *Edition 2 - 2020*



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# Haulofu Chairs the SAPP



*Kahenge S Haulofu*

The 48th Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) Executive Committee Virtual Meeting of 18 May 2020, unanimously voted Kahenge S Haulofu, NamPower's Managing Director, as the new SAPP Executive Committee Chairperson for the next two years.

Created in 1995, the SAPP was formed with the objective of providing reliable and economical electricity supply to the consumers of each of the SAPP Members through the co-ordination of and the cooperation in the planning and operation of its various transmission facilities. Currently, SAPP has 17 members from 12 countries: 12 national utilities (nine operating members and three non-operating members); three independent power producers and two independent transmission companies.

The main grid systems of Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe form the interconnected regional network, forming one of the largest synchronous geographic areas in the world.

## **SAPP Structure and Governance**

The SADC Government Ministers and Officials are responsible for policy matters, which are normally under their control in terms of the national administrative and

# Haulofu Chairs the SAPP (continued)

legislative mechanisms that regulate the relations between the Government and its respective power utility; while the Chief Executives of the various power utilities form the SAPP Executive Committee Kahenge Haulofu, Managing Director of NamPower, will reign as the new SAPP Executive Committee Chairperson until May 2022.

## 1. What does this appointment as Chairperson mean for you?

Haulofu: This appointment means a lot not just to me in my personal capacity but also for NamPower as a member utility of SAPP.

I am grateful and honoured that such an opportunity is bestowed on me during my tenure as NamPower Managing Director. Having served NamPower for the last 22 years in various capacities, it is an honour and privilege to be nominated by my fellow SAPP Executive Directors to this important portfolio of SADC.

SAPP facilitates electricity trade within SADC and NamPower being a net importer benefits a lot from the region. This is an opportune time to lead the body that crafts the strategic position for SAPP. It is the only successful power pool in Africa and during my tenure we would like to help develop other power pools in Africa, such as the East Africa Power Pool (EAPP) which will be interconnected to SAPP in the near future with the intention of exchanging electricity trades between the two pools.

## 2. How do you view the Chairperson's role for the SAPP, and what is your strategy to help

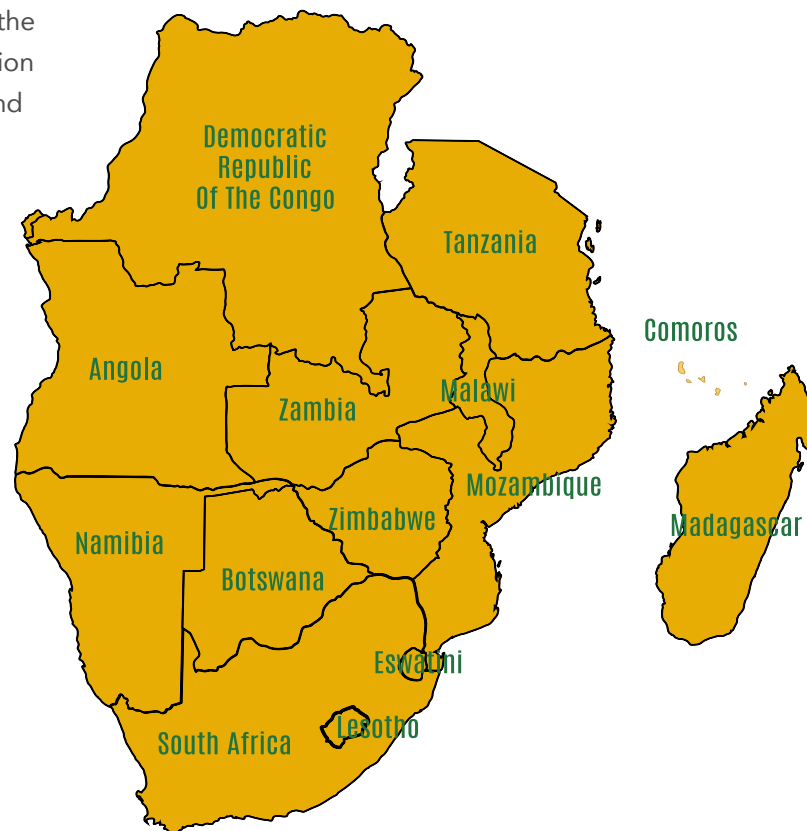
### propel the SAPP to even greater heights during your reign?

The SAPP is currently operating in an environment of diminishing generation surplus capacity. At the same time, the regional electricity demand is projected to grow at an average rate of three percent (3%) per annum. SAPP plays a vital role in ensuring that the regional demand does not outstrip the available generation and also ensuring that the generation reserve margins of 10.2% or more are adhered to at all times. Most of the SADC utilities are interconnected and exchange a significant amount of electricity trades at all times.

From the new strategic plan of SAPP, my focus areas will be on the development and promotion of the SAPP generation and transmission projects and to interconnect those SAPP members that are currently not part of the SAPP grid. A major feature of the SAPP is the combination of long- and short-term arrangements, providing increased scope for reduction in supply costs to participating members. Such contracts govern the specific commercial arrangements, within the

SAPP framework. Further, the intent is for SAPP to establish a regional spot or competitive market where electricity would be traded in real time. SAPP believes that the creation of a spot market in the region would optimise the use of regional resources, enable the determination of the correct price of electricity in the pool and will send signals for investments and real time utilisation of existing assets (transmission, generation and consumption).

I believe that by focusing on these critical strategic focus areas, I will be able to help steer SAPP into the right path of a cooperative pool and take it into a new era of greater heights.



# Meet Rhino and Buffalo

Article contributed by Elsebi Gadney: Senior Engineer, Transmission Capital Projects

*After years of planning, immense procurement challenges and a touch of COVID-19, Rhino and Buffalo are set to enter Namibia's border and join the NamPower family by the end of 2021.*

Rhino and Buffalo are the names of NamPower's new eagerly-awaited Mobile Substations, rated 20MVA with multiple voltage ratios of 132/66kV to 33/11kV and 132/66kV to 22/11kV, respectively.

NamPower embarked on the Mobile Substations Project in 2016 with the main objective of providing security of supply in case of a transformer failure at a substation by enabling restoration of power supply. In addition to this benefit, the Mobile Substations will also be used to facilitate an alternative temporary power supply where new installations, maintenance or upgrading must be conducted.

Adding these two beasts to NamPower's Transmission fleet will also support NamPower in providing a temporary point of supply to major customers within a significantly shorter time period, than would normally be required to provide a permanent supply.

The scope of the project entails the specification, design, manufacturing, testing and delivery of two (2) complete fit-for-purpose multi-ratio, outdoor, Mobile Substations with capacity of 20 MVA each.

The specifications for the Rhino and Buffalo Mobile Substation units were concluded during 2017. Market research indicated that the estimated budget would be outside of

NamPower's procurement threshold, therefore the procurement had to be administered by the Central Procurement Board of Namibia (CPBN) on behalf of NamPower.

The individual procurement plan was submitted to the CPBN in March 2018 for approval and the bid was finally advertised to the public on the 4th of February 2019. The final bid closing date was the 3rd of June 2019 and a total of eight (8) bids were received.

The evaluation was concluded within three (3) months where-after the Notice of Selection of Award letter was sent out to all bidders on the 14th of August 2019. ABB South-Africa (Pty) Ltd was selected as the successful bidder and the contract was signed on the 4th of December 2019.

During January 2020, the detailed design and procurement of all the major components of the Mobile Substations commenced. These major components include the Transformer, High Voltage Switchgear, Medium Voltage switchgear, Combined Neutral Electromagnetic

Coupler with Neutral Earthing Resistor and Auxiliary Transformer (NECRT), Protection Automation Equipment and the Cables.

All equipment has to be designed to ensure adherence to the applicable International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards, as well as the applicable abnormal vehicle regulations. It is worth noting that there are no standard designs available for these specific Multi-ratio Mobile Substations. As such, the designs of Rhino and Buffalo proves to be complex where weight and size are limiting factors, amongst others.

The project is currently at the stage where almost all the major components' detailed designs have been concluded, with the exception of the mechanical design of the transformers. This critical path milestone is set to be concluded by the end of September 2020, where-after the detailed trailer design will commence.

Please check in with the Mobile Substations Team in 3 months for an update!

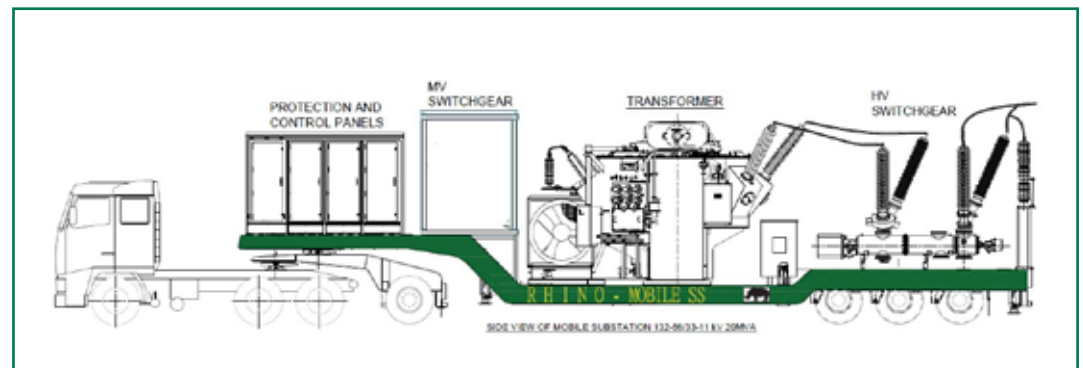


Figure 1: Conceptual design of Rhino Mobile Substation

# NamPower to Electrify

## 1,000 Houses in Peri-Urban Windhoek



NamPower has embarked on its largest Corporate Social Investment project to date, as it launched the N\$15 million dollar Peri-Urban Areas Electrification Project in May. Through this initiative, the company is committing to contribute to the improvement of the lives of communities living in peri-urban areas in and around Windhoek by providing electricity to one thousand (1,000) households, as part of NamPower's corporate social investment. The commissioning of the electrification project is intended to be by end of August 2020, if no delays are experienced during our COVID-19 transition stages.

The media launching of the event also coincided with the signing of a "Project Development and Transfer Agreement" with the City of Windhoek, as upon successful completion, NamPower will hand over the electricity infrastructure-assets to the City of Windhoek, as approved by the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, under a deed of donation.

To this effect, the City of Windhoek identified nine(9) informal areas which are ready for electrification. The respective areas, and the number of households to be electrified, are as follows:

Area / Informal settlement	Number of households to be electrified
Babylon	100
Havana Ex 1	200
Havana Ex 3	100
Havana Proper	100
Okahandja Park	100
One Nation	100
Ongulumbashe	100
Otjomuise Ex 6 & 7	200

The scope of works for the electrification of the 1,000 households are: The construction of medium to low voltage networks; installation of street lights and individual household connections, including DB boards and prepaid meters.

Speaking at the Project Development and Transfer Agreement signing, Chief Executive Officer of the City of Windhoek, Robert Kahimise, expressed gratitude to NamPower as he says that the city is faced with an electricity backlog in informal areas and thus welcomes this initiative.

Currently the project team is in the process of finalising the appointment of contractors and the procurement of medium voltage and low voltage material. This stage is envisioned to be completed by end of July.

*"NamPower, as a corporate citizen, will continue to fulfil its social responsibility, in addition to its core mandate of ensuring security of electricity supply. We pledge to continue investing in Namibia and its people, in a sustainable manner, while fulfilling our mandate, for the benefit of future generations and the development of Namibia at large," states NamPower Managing Director, Kahenge Haulofu.*

# NamPower Electrifies Omakange



*In another great demonstration of NamPower's responsible corporate citizenship, the company, through its Rural Electrification Programme, successfully commissioned the electrification of Omakange location on 19 June 2020 in Omakange, situated in the Ruacana Constituency of the Kunene and Omusati regions.*

Omakange lies in the centre of a triangle that links Opuwo and Kamanjab in the Kunene Region and Ruacana in the Omusati Region. Considering its strategic location, Omakange has great economic potential to become a trading hub in northern Namibia. Currently there are a number of residential dwellings, businesses, projects and community facilities such as a police station, a school, a clinic and government offices.

NamPower, in its twofold role as an implementer of the Government's Rural Electrification Programme through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, has since 1991 invested millions into the electrification of rural communities and un-electrified public institutions nationwide. As such, when NamPower received a request from the Omusati Regional Council in June 2019 for a powerline extension in Omakange location, the utility knew that it had a moral obligation to act on this appeal because of its dedication towards the betterment of communities and the country, through the acceleration of electrification.

NamPower believes and recognises that the extension of the accessibility of electricity to rural communities, has a direct correlation to the improvement of the quality of life in these communities as it provides opportunities for economic development for the benefit of all in its surroundings, and the nation at large.

The scope of works for the electrification of Omakange included the supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning of medium to low voltage networks, including street lighting and service connections to government buildings, growth points and households within the vicinity of 500 meters. NamPower electrified government buildings, one school, clinic, kindergarden, service station, vocational training school and police station, 144 dwelling structures (houses), twelve school staff houses, one borehole, and 152 growth points. In total, NamPower invested just over N\$20 million in the Omakange electrification project.

It is NamPower's hope that through the electrification of Omakange, a productive and contributing business hub will be birthed, health and educational services will improve, and economic and commercial activities will increase and prosper.

NamPower continues to partner with the Government of Namibia to accelerate efforts to bring electricity to all corners of the country.



# Omakange Rural Electrification Project Beneficiary: **Debbie Maxuilili Ankama**



The Minister of Mines and Energy, Honourable Tom Alweendo, inaugurated the Omakange Rural Electrification Project, which culminated into the electrification of government infrastructure such as a school, clinic, police station, agriculture extension office, a service station, several small businesses and households.

*A beneficiary of this long-awaited rural electrification project, Meme Debbie Maxuilili Ankama, was very excited and could not contain her happiness when relating her story on the sidelines of the official inauguration of this project.*

"I am so happy that NamPower, without a lot of bureaucratic measures, have come to our aid. We are so grateful and we are so happy that we now have electricity in our households and businesses. We never begged NamPower to install electricity in our little village. This came automatically by the grace of the Almighty and NamPower just gave us electricity. And I am so proud," a beaming Maxuilili-Ankama said. Coming from a background where she had to beg for some national services, she was

overwhelmed at how fast and easily their prayer of electricity in their houses was answered.

Meme Debbie and her husband Tate Willem Ankama farm on a small plot in Omakange producing tomatoes, spinach, spring onions, okra, mealies, paw-paw, and farm with poultry as well. The 62-year-old did not receive any help in the form of start-up capital from any ministry. She used her pension as well as input from her husband to start up their business venture. "I didn't even get corona relieve package that other business people received. We can do without them, we have NamPower on our side," she added.

She says access to electricity has changed her business and lifestyle at the little village of Omakange for the better, as she is now able to preserve and cool some of her produce, which could go to waste had they not had access to electricity.

During the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown, Meme Debbie and her family lost a lot of their produce, as they did not have or were unable to secure travel permits to move their produce for sale during that time. They had to give away a lot of their produce to local people in and around Omakange so that the food does not go to waste. They do

not regret doing that and are just grateful they could share with their fellow village mates.

With the provision of electricity at their homestead, the Ankama family will now be able to install cooling facilities, in order to preserve their produce for longer and continue with their business during the lockdown.

"You know, without electricity we cannot even do the welding for our chicken enclosures. And we don't have to buy diesel for the generators anymore. I feel like crying, first time in my life not begging but things just came by the grace of God. Truly this is why I am so grateful to NamPower," Meme Maxuilili Ankama stated.

The family now wants to build a more permanent structure as they currently live in temporary structures such as tents whenever they commute from Oshakati, where they have a house.

*"Now that I have electricity, I want to build my house with zinc. I can build a beautiful structure for myself and have a place to sleep".*

Her long-term vision is to provide eggs to the local school once her poultry business is in full swing, all thanks to the provision of electricity to her homestead. "NamPower, Power! Power!" were her final words before our team waved her goodbye.



# Sem Mathews and Pete Compaan: Driving Innovation at NamPower Training Centre



Sem Mathews (22) and Juan Pete Compaan (22) are two fourth-year Electrical General students at NamPower's Vocational Training Centre who are using the passion for their trades to create a technologically smart NamPower. The two are at the forefront of research and development for the implementation of automated lighting for NamPower buildings.

The journey that sparked this company-wide lighting automation project began when both

Mathews and Compaan took part in World Skills Namibia in April 2019, a national competition that allows technical institutions and individuals to test their skills proficiency against peers in the same trade. Under the category Electrical Installations, Mathews scooped the gold prize while Compaan received silver out of a number of competitors hailing from different Vocational Training Centres across Namibia. Their victory sent them to South Africa for an 18-week training on Building Automation.

The training they received produced a new-found love for building automation and inspired the duo to gain as much knowledge in the art, in anticipation to one day implement company-wide automated lighting to help NamPower substantially decrease maintenance costs through energy saving with KNX. KNX uses infra-red sensors that detect body heat and can automatically switch off lighting if there is no body heat detected; and on when body heat is detected. This technology is a secure way to ensure that lighting in unoccupied offices will be off, thus saving electricity and ultimately, millions of dollars yearly.

*The duo underwent their first training in Basic KNX and Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) in October 2018 at P&T Technologies in South Africa. Mathews and Compaan were*

*then sent to undergo an Advanced training course in KNX in 2019, which made them the only two people in Southern Africa to complete and be qualified in Advanced KNX.*

In support of her students, Mercy Situmbeko, Head: NamPower Vocational Training Centre & Education, Training and Development (ETD), approached NamPower's EXCO with a formal request to automate the NamPower Head Office Building and other NamPower buildings. The request was approved. However, due to budgetary constraints and other factors, the project is on hold for 2020 but will proceed in 2021, starting with the NamPower Training Centre's building.

Looking to the future, the ETD Section has already put up panels for the qualified trainees to continue practicing while training other trainees. ETD plans to further train these trainees as KNX Accredited Trainers so that they can train and accredit other trainees and employees, rather than sending trainees or employees to the only South African institute accredited to train KNX accredited by KNX Belgium. The NamPower Training Centre also looks to expand its curriculum to provide short courses in KNX to the public as an income-generating initiative for NamPower.



# Farewell, Ousie Evelyn



**Evelyn Hamutenya**

*After 33 years of service at NamPower, Evelyn Hamutenya, Assistant Accountant at Debtors, downed tools last month when she reached retirement.*

Evelyn, affectionately known amongst the NamPower family as “Aunty Evelyn” or “Ousie Evelyn” was a trained nurse before she joined the then SWAWEK in 1986. Evelyn left her job as a nurse after five years at the Katutura Hospital to start working as a cook at the then SWAWEK Club, now called the NamPower Convention Centre, influenced by an incident at the hospital more than 35 years ago. Someone close to her died while medics were trying to resuscitate them, and that incident subsequently influenced her decision to abort her career as a nurse. “I couldn’t handle how people died. I believed that we were supposed to heal everyone that comes to a hospital and not being able to do that really affected me emotionally. Especially children. I then decided to look for another job, it didn’t matter what type it was,” Evelyn related.

She left her job and started looking for another job for a while, until she stumbled on the then SWAWEK advert in which they were looking for a cook. She applied for and successfully landed the job in 1986, which paid more than twice her then salary as a nurse. “Hospital payment was very low and NamPower’s offer was better. I used to get R50 salary but NamPower’s salary was R200, which was more than twice the amount,” she said.

Evelyn became the favourite cook of Mr Polla Brand, the then Managing Director of NamPower. “He was very particular. Every morning he would come from home without eating and would only eat breakfast made by myself,” she recalled.

In 1989 Evelyn moved over to the head office as a cleaner, where she would occasionally help a fellow colleague who used to work as

a filing clerk. While still a cleaner and helping out at finance, the filing clerk passed away after a few years and Evelyn automatically moved into the position. Through her hard work and commitment she became an assistant accountant at debtors, while still doing filing.

NamPower gave her opportunities to upgrade her skills by giving her numerous in-service training opportunities, which enabled her to better fulfil her duties. In addition, NamPower provided great support to her as her children benefitted from the NamPower Bursary Scheme. One of her sons is now an Electronic Engineer and today occupies a managerial position at a reputable mine in Namibia. “Also, one of the greatest opportunities was to be able to buy myself a house,” she added.

Evelyn will hold fondly onto the NamPower family celebrations and long service awards, which were held annually to recognise various milestones and achievements, as well as the good perks that NamPower gives to its employees. She says she will also miss her colleagues very much, as they have become family.

Evelyn has a solid plan for her retirement. She aspires to start a sewing business in Nkurenkuru, to where she is planning to relocate, joining her husband who retired a while ago. She also wants to expand their gardening venture to make a living out of it, while farming on the sideline.

“To my colleagues, work hard and walk the extra mile if you want to succeed in life. Respect each other, irrespective of age, position or title. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect”.

*NamPower wishes Evelyn the best.*

# PowerCare

## *Gives to the Vulnerable*

There is no-one left unscathed by the effects of COVID-19, and even more-so are the citizens who were found to be already in a vulnerable position. Therefore, the NamPower Foundation PowerCare Project, during the months of May and June, ran a food parcel collection initiative which invited all staff members to donate food for the less fortunate.

The collected food items were handed over to the Division of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare of the Omaheke Regional Council, to be donated to a Centre housing 20 street and vulnerable children at Du Plessis Plaas in Okorukambe Constituency.

