

PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRE-COMMERCIAL CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER PLANT IN NAMIBIA (CSP NAM PROJECT)

WELCOMING REMARKS

BY

MR. KAHIJORO KAHUURE

PERMANENT SECRETARY

MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY

MME-AUDITORIUM

WINDHOEK

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Director of Ceremonies

Esteemed Development partners

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Captains of Industry

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you back to the Ministry of Mines and Energy for a presentation and discussion of the findings and the direction that needs to be taken with regards to the Prefeasibility Study for a Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Plant in Namibia.

Dear distinguished colleagues, just over a month ago we gathered here for the preliminary findings of the study that showed Namibia's remarkable solar resource potential and the cost estimates for pursuing the development of a CSP plant.

Today's workshop will build on the previous progress made and the consultants will present the final findings on all the required tasks including the technical capacity building road map, technology transfer programme and CSP implications for Namibia. It's my hope that the development partners, financiers, developers, suppliers and academia represented here will seize the opportunity presented and make the study a reality. The Ministry of Mines and Energy in conjunction with the Energy and Environment Partnership with Southern & Eastern Africa (EEP) has provided finance to the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Institute (REEEI) at the Polytechnic of Namibia to implement this project. EEP's contribution was channelled through the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Just last week His Excellency, President Hifikepunye Pohamba launched the country's fourth National Development Plan. The three overarching goals in this plan are:

- High and sustained economic growth
- Employment creation
- Increased income equality

NDP4 also highlights that in order to reach these goals, proper infrastructure needs to be in place of which energy is one of them. We all know the benefits of renewable energy and the only challenge is a proper plan of action to realise these benefits. The prefeasibility study is only the first step in developing this plan. The second phase would be the full feasibility study that would look at the business model as well as a full Environmental Impact Assessment for a specific site and technology selected. As I speak the Ministry of Mines and

Energy, the United Nations Development Programme and other key stakeholders are in discussions with the Global Environment Facility for the funding of the second phase of the CSP project.

Ladies and gentlemen,

You may ask why we are engaging in a study on Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) bearing in mind that it is perceived to be an expensive technology. The Ministry of Mines and Energy believes in a generation mix and also believes that renewable energy has an important part to play especially in job creation, social upliftment, climate change mitigation and increased access to electricity.

As you may be aware, Namibia is highly dependent on electricity import from the Southern African Power Pool. This leads to eminent disruption to the country's power supplies and is a major threat to the current steady

economic growth. The Government of Namibia is therefore exploring ways of enhancing power supply and promoting efficient use of available electricity resources to avert economic disruption. CSP in this regard can be a short to medium term solution considering that it is a mature technology, capable of producing firm and dispatchable power to the grid and most of the technologies being used are conventional to the power industry.

In addition 51.2 % of the Namibian population is unemployed of which the majority are youth. It is my hope that the development of the CSP plant will help Namibia to address the lack of employment opportunities available in the country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am the least qualified to talk about the technologies, hence I will leave it to the consultants to expertly elaborate further. It is my belief that the CSP study will deliver recommendations for us to quickly set up a clean and sustainable energy power plant to meet our immediate and long term power requirements.

In conclusion, it is my hope that this Consultative Meeting will receive maximum support from the private sector, development partners, experienced CSP developers and financiers. I therefore declare this meeting open and wish each other a fruitful discussion.

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