



Keynote Address

By the

Hon. Tom Alweendo

Minister of Mines and Energy,

On the occasion of the

Official Inauguration of Aloe

Investments 5 MW Solar PV

27 April 2017

- Director of Ceremonies,
- Governor of the //Karas Region,
Honourable Lucia Basson,
- Constituency Councillor, Honourable
Lazarus Nangolo
- Regional Councillors Present,
- Local Authority Councillors,
- Directors and staffs of Aloe Investments,
- Members of the business community,
- Distinguished guests,
- Members of the Media,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning!

It is my great pleasure to be with you all here in Rosh Pinah for the official opening and inauguration of Aloe Investments, five megawatt Solar PV Power Plant.

This power plant is one of Fourteen (14) Renewable Energy Projects under the Interim Renewable Energy Feed-in Tariff (REFIT) Programme, which was initiated by the Ministry of Mines and Energy, the Electricity Control Board and NamPower in 2015, with the intention to reduced our electricity imports and attract private investment in the development of renewable energy resources in Namibia.

I am privileged to participate at inauguration of Aloe Investments power

plant and to report that currently as we as speak nine (9) out of the Fourteen (14) REFIT projects have officially connected to the national grid. The total amount of clean electricity energy which was feed into the grid by these projects was about ninety-three (93) Giga-Watt hours in 2017, which is clear testimony of an important milestone of an electricity supply industry (ESI) that is undergoing change in Namibia.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Energy remains the number one key input for development and thus Government recognizes it in both the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) and the 5th National Development as a priority infrastructure

area needed for nation's socio-economic growth and development. With the HPP action plan we have committed ourselves to increasing the local electricity generating capacity from 400 to 600 MW and the rate of rural electrification from 34% to 50% by 2020. It therefore important that we continue to pro-actively plan, structure, manage and develop an energy sector that can optimally support and respond to our development aspirations today, and in the future.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy has finalized both the National Energy Policy and National Renewable Energy Policy. In so doing we hope to have given a clear signal that Government is committed to a sustainable energized future for its people.

We are also cognizant of the fact that the Government alone cannot shoulder the immense investment required for the development of the country's energy infrastructure. We need the private sector, and we explicitly welcome the active participation of private sector actors, such as Aloe Investments, who have realised this power plant here at Rosh Pinah.

As we thrive towards vision 2030, we must continue to use local available resources for the beneficiation of all Namibians. In case of Energy, Namibia has one of the world's best solar resource, and a significant amount of biomass and plenty good wind regimes. I would therefore like to use to this opportunity to motivate all our stakeholders' –more importantly our

private partners to invest in this sector. On our side as the Government, we will make sure that we create an enabling environment and with legislative tools such as the National Integrated Resource Plan, the National Independent Power Producer (IPP) Policy and with the Revised Market Framework Model on the way, therefore be rest assured that we are working in accordance with some of the best practices in the world.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, I wish to thank each and every one who has been part of this impressive project, and contributed to it. I realise that there are many who have been working tirelessly: **I wish to thank you all!**

Specifically, I want to thank Aloe Investments, NamPower, the Electricity Control Board, and the town of Rosh Pinah and all the men and women who have ensured that this project was realised.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you all for being here today, and wish you an inspiring and most pleasant day ahead.

I thank you!