



Ministry of Mines & Energy
"promoting Namibia's mineral, geological and energy resources"

WELCOMING REMARKS ON THE LAUNCH OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY (SACREEE)

By

Hon. Kornerlia Shilunga, MP

Deputy Minister of Mines and Energy

**SAFARI COURT AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, WINDHOEK,
NAMIBIA**

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- Director of Ceremonies;
- Honourable Tom Alweendo, Minister of Mines and Energy, Namibia
- Honourable SADC Ministers responsible for Energy
- Development partners
- Captains of Electricity Supply Industry;
- Heads of Energy Regulatory Authorities
- Members of the business community
- Members of the Media;
- Distinguished Invited Guests;
- All Protocol observed
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is my greatest honour and privilege to offer a special welcome to all of you at this occasion for marking the launch of the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE).

To my Honourable Ministers, I thank you for taking off your busy schedule to come to Namibia and witness the launch of your Centre. On behalf of the Government of Namibia, I welcome you to the Land of the Brave.

I am also encouraged to see quite a number of our International Cooperation Partners, Chief Executive Officers, Directors and other

distinguished guests who are here to support this occasion and look forward to a long-lasting partnership in the future.

Climate change does not only affect the African continent but the globe at large. Hence working together on the Paris Agreement on Climate change globally is crucial for us all.

I am aware that many of you arrived over the weekend and I hope that despite your meetings, which were so much involved, you have had the time and the opportunity to taste and observe the warmth and way of life of the people of Namibia.

Access to clean and modern energy services as well as energy security is the main reason behind the establishment of SACREEE in the region. There is no doubt that for the economic development of the SADC region we need sustainable energy that will take us to the future and also to conserve the resources we have. It is therefore my view that this is an important occasion for the launch of this regional body entrusted with the coordination and implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the SADC.

Ladies and gentlemen, first foremost countries want to create jobs for their citizens.

The lack of job opportunities creates in any country unhappiness and unacceptable level of instability. In our discussions today I hope some solutions on how to address the issues of job creation and capacitating entrepreneurship skills development through energy development, will emerge. The topics to be discussed will hopefully enlighten us and not only to be a talk shop but to provide solutions on how our countries in the region can achieve economic growth and prosperity.

Lack of access to energy services is one of the main constraints to economic development in the region. With low energy efficiency, limited installed generation capacity, and weak governance institutions the energy sector, energy security in the region has become a critical concern. There is increasing evidence that expansion of power generation capacity can be met through renewable energy technologies.

The time has come for all of us to stop talking about barriers and the familiar word lack of, but instead focus on providing strategic and smart solutions to address our energy plans.

Examples from developed countries have shown that renewable energy is a very reliable source of supply for the SADC Region and can reduce the current scenario of heavy dependency on fossil fuel that has caused some of our countries to be heavily indebted. Fortunately, many of our countries are endowed with huge renewable energy resources that can be sustainably developed for the benefit of our economies.

I am very much encouraged with your attendance and hope the discussions today will be fruitful and the launch of SACREEE hosted in Namibia will provide value to the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the region and that all of our countries will offer the necessary support.

With that I would like to welcome you all in Namibia. Feel at home and enjoy the hospitality that we readily make available.

I thank you.

