



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

**HANDOVER SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINES
AND ENERGY, HONOURABLE KORNELIA SHILUNGA**

MME 7th Floor Boardroom

Windhoek, Namibia

08 March 2019



The Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia – Professor Kenneth MATENGU;

Dean of the Faculty of Science, of the University of Namibia – Dr Ndeyapo NICKANOR;

Chairperson of the Organising Committee of the Solar Power Systems for Namibia (SPSN) 2018 Conference - Professor Shyam SINGH;

Officials from the Ministry of Mines and Energy;

Officials from the Ministry of Education Arts and Culture;

Officials from the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation;

Staff from the Namibia University of Science and Technology;

Members of the Media,

All invited guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Greetings to you all.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Ministry of Mines and Energy, on this occasion, where solar lighting kits will be handed over to the University of Namibia, for onward passing to secondary school learners in areas not served by the national electricity grid.

The provision of adequate, sustainable, and affordable modern energy services enhances opportunities for the recipients. Access to modern energy services is one of the indices of the level of national development, worldwide. In developing countries such as Namibia, there is still quite a significant percentage of the population, not yet served by modern energy services such as electricity. School going children may therefore have limited lighting for extended studies after sunset.

The Government of the Republic of Namibia, and Ministry of Mines and Energy, in particular, recognises the importance of increased energy access for the Namibian population, which is why energy targets were included in the Harambee Prosperity Plan, and in NDP5. This is also enshrined in Namibia's Energy Policy, and Renewable Energy Policy, so that when the University of Namibia approached the MME as you organised the Solar Power Systems for Namibia 2018 Conference, you got the Ministry's full support. The 1000 solar powered lights were procured at UNAM's request, in order that they may be distributed to learners that currently do not have modern lighting systems, and hopefully those learners

will use the lights for their studies after sunset. It is our expectation that the Ministry of Education Arts and Culture will be involved in the identification of those in need of the lights, and that UNAM researchers who will monitor the performance of the learners will work closely with the Ministry. To this extent, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between UNAM and the MME, that will guide the monitoring and evaluation of the distribution and usage of the lights, and benefits derived thereof, has been drafted and is in the final stages of scrutiny by the legal offices of the two institutions. Once ready, the MOU will be signed accordingly, and help map out other areas of cooperation such as capacity building and training, through short courses and seminars, as well as conferences such as the Solar Power Systems for Namibia 2018. I understand that you are now busy setting up the Organising Committee for a similar conference in 2019. You have the Ministry's support.

With these few words, the Ministry of Mines and Energy hereby hands over the 1000 solar lighting kits to UNAM. We look forward to the sharing of results from the research related to the use of

these lights by our learners in the selected off-grid secondary schools.

Thank you.
