



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE VEIKKO
NEKUNDI, DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS AND
TRANSPORT AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE
OKONGO NaTIS OFFICE ON FRIDAY, 26 JUNE
2020, OHANGWENA REGION**

Director of Ceremonies;

Honourable Walde Ndevashiya, Governor of Ohangwena Region;

Honourable Fanuel Ndadi, Councilor of Okongo Constituency and other Regional Councilors present;

Cllr Paulus Mwachanyekange, Chairperson of the Okongo Village Council and other Councillors present;

Mr. Conrad Mutonga Lutombi, Chief Executive Officer of the Roads Authority;

Mr. Wodibo Sakaria Haulofu, Chief Executive Officer of Okongo Village Council;

Management and Staff of the Roads Authority and Okongo Village Council;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

OUR PRESIDENT'S CALL IS THAT NO ONE SHOULD FEEL LEFT OUT, and that INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT IS A CRITICAL FACTOR TOWARD THE CONSOLIDATION OF OUR GREAT VALUE OF ONE NAMIBIA ONE NATION!!!

The afore-stated value statements drive my singular feels of honor and pleasure to be here in the Ohangwena Region for this important occasion, which marks the official inauguration of the Okongo NaTIS Office. The opening of this milestone achievement is undoubtedly another identity value proposition for the Okongo and its surroundings residents from the broader collective national identity. It must be underscored that every nation, organization or an individual has a vision. A vision to assist in reaching set targets, a vision to map out guidelines, a vision to serve as institutional memories for generations to come. Therefore the Namibian collective vision is spearheaded by our President, H.E Dr. Hage G Geingob. That vision is a vision of inclusivity for all, a vision that states that no one should feel left out. As Namibians, and in this case, the Ministry of Works and Transport together with our Agency the Road Authority, we are here to witness another testimony of our commitment of living by that great vision and implore each and every Namibian to do their part in ensuring that we all contribute to the realization of that great vision.

Dear compatriots, the opening of this Office once again marks a significant milestone for our SWAPO Party Government and in particular, the Okongo Village Council and the people of Ohangwena Region at large, as this Office will bring

much needed NaTIS services closer to the people of this area and the entire region. The opening of this Office, although small in size, will improve the lives of our people in a big way and it will contribute to the development and growth of the Okongo Village.

The SWAPO Party led government has been, and it will always continue to deliver inclusive development and prosperity for all Namibians. Be assured and be guaranteed, we shall always continue to implement with utmost commitment dedication equal to none, the policies that have made Namibia one of the beacons of hope and development on the African continent. Dear residents of the okongo area and its surrounding, to those who are the masters of the chorus "SWAPO Party led government have done nothing", this is another real object to prove them contrary, this is another factor to stabilize your mind away from being misled and mi-informed.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Before independence, communities from the Ohangwena, Omusati and Kunene Regions had to travel to Oshakati for learner, driver and motor vehicle testing services. Over the years, the Government of the Republic of Namibia through the Roads Authority constructed fully-fledged motor vehicle and driver testing Centres and NaTIS Offices countrywide. In the north, fully fledged modern testing Centres were opened at Ongwediva, Outapi, Opuwo and Eenhana to ease the pressure off the Oshakati Centre.

As part of our Government's policy to bringing services closer to the people, a need was identified to open a NaTIS Office at Okongo Village. The community in this area used to travel approximately 200 kilometers to and from Eenhana for NaTIS services and this was a great challenge, especially for those with no means of transport. I am, therefore, very delighted and proud to announce that, as of today, our people will no longer be required to travel to Eenhana for over the counter NaTIS services. Although this facility is not equipped to provide all examining functions for vehicles and drivers, it will cater for the following:

- Registration and Licensing of vehicles;
- Annual renewal of Vehicle Licenses;
- Renewal of Driving Licenses;
- Testing and issuing of Learners Licenses;

Our main objective is to have fully fledged NaTIS facilities countrywide and I would like to reassure you here today that the Ministry of Works and Transport together with the implementing Agency, the Roads Authority, will continue to ensure that NaTIS services are taken to the people. However, because of limited funds, this on-going initiative will be done over a number of years.

Director of Ceremonies,

This project was fully funded by the Government of the Republic of Namibia to the tune of approximately N\$225 000.00. I am pleased to inform you that Local Contractors carried out all the renovations and customization.

Please allow me to thank the Ohangwena Regional leadership together with Roads Authority for spearheading this project. I also wish to thank the Okongo Village Council for assisting with securing the office space to be used as the NaTIS Office. This, ladies and gentlemen, is a testimony of teamwork and our Governments' commitment to bringing essential services to its people.

I have been informed that the Roads Authority has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Okongo Village Council to manage the NaTIS office on its behalf and all costs that are incurred by the Village Council for managing the Office will be fully reimbursed with an additional mark-up. In today's world, the rising demand for service and limited financial resources create a strong imperative for the development of business thinking by being innovative and creating new ways of providing vital services. Hence, outsourcing of certain functions has become a norm in recent times. The involvement of other Government entities in the operation of NaTIS services is a good example in this regard.

I, therefore, in addition wish to use this platform to call upon the Okongo Village Council, which has been appointed as an Agent, to provide NaTIS services, to take full ownership, responsibility and accept the challenge of integrating these functions into the Village Council structures. The main priority is to offer excellent customer service at all NaTIS Offices while at the same time maintaining the set standards.

It is my pleasure to announce here today that the Okongo Village Council will have its own vehicle licence mark to be known as: **N - KO**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have noted, with great concern, that fraudsters/Conmen have been targeting NaTIS Offices to rob unsuspecting members of the public of their hard earned money by offering them fake learner and driving licenses for sale. Thus, please allow me to use this platform to request the people of Ohangwena Region and the Namibian nation at large to be vigilant at all times and to always do the right thing by applying for NaTIS services through the correct procedures and only with authorised NaTIS Officials. Please do not fall prey to people with dubious agendas. All NaTIS services are done over the counter and at official NaTIS Centres and not at street corners. Please ensure that you get official documents

and receipts after concluding your transactions with NaTIS. I would also like to warn those people with dubious agendas who are carrying out fraudulent activities that if you are caught, you will face the full wrath of the law.

Similarly, as we are still under the State of Emergency of COVID-19, I would like to urge the communities in this area to always adhere to the set safety directives by wearing a face mask, practicing social distancing and sanitizing their hands when visiting this Office at all times. Let us join hands and fight this pandemic together.

Director of ceremonies,

I would like to share information on some of the road projects we are currently busy with in this region. It is my pleasure to inform you that our Government represented by the Roads Authority as Executing Agency has commenced with the construction of access roads in the Ohangwena Region to improve road infrastructure of this region. This project is co-financed by our Government and the KfW from Germany. The project comprises of the construction of nine(9) gravel access roads to 10 flood affected schools and clinics in the Ohangwena Region. In addition, the Roads Authority will also continue with routine maintenance works on all the roads and the rehabilitation of boreholes in this region

Before I conclude my statement, allow me to quote the President of the Republic of Namibia and the SWAPO Party, H.E Dr. Hage G Geingob, **“Development that is not driven by the people and does not translate in improved living conditions for all people is a meaningless development. Moreover, development that does not reach all people in an equitable manner will only undermine the peace and stability necessary for sustainable development.”** Indeed, today we are all gathered here to witness development in Okongo.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With these few remarks, it is now my pleasant duty, on behalf of our Government, your government, to declare the Okongo NaTIS Office officially open for business.

I thank you.