

PRESENTATION ON NAMIBIA'S INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK BY H.E. MR HUMPHREY D. GEISEB, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF NAMIBIA TO FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 20 JUNE 2019

NAMIBIA'S DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. The current Government of President Hage G. Geingob plans to bring about "Prosperity to all Namibians" and to eradicate poverty in Namibia by 2025.
2. The goal of "Prosperity for All" strives towards building an inclusive Namibia, where those who have been disproportionately marginalized are included into the mainstream of our economy. A Namibia where every citizen has access to the basic amenities to live a decent life. We are talking about shelter, access to potable water, quality education, primary healthcare and sustainable income to afford the necessities of life.
3. The Namibian Government remains committed to the principles of solidarity, freedom and justice. As a respected and trusted member of the international community, we are keen to maintain and further our regional, continental and international relationships.

FOREIGN POLICY

4. Namibia's new Foreign Policy was adopted in 2018, with a key focus on economic diplomacy as opposed to traditional

political diplomacy. As a Child of International Solidarity, we place a high premium on maintaining mutually beneficial relations with other countries. The support of the international community was integral to the attainment of our political independence and remains critical in our pursuit for economic independence.

5. At a continental level, we are in the process of establishing “The Africa we Want”, under our strategic framework for socio-economic transformation - Agenda 2063 of the African Union (AU). Infrastructure development has been identified as one of the flagship projects of our Agenda, since poor infrastructure is an impediment to economic growth and productivity. To address the challenge of infrastructure, African Heads of State and Government adopted the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), as the continental strategic infrastructure framework.
6. Furthermore, in an effort to boost intra-African trade, the AU Commission has earmarked the African Continental Free-Trade Area (ACFTA) as a major force for continental integration. The ACFTA will cover an African market of 1.2 billion people and a gross domestic product of 2.5 trillion USD across all 55 Member States of the AU. However, integration cannot take place in the absence of industrialization and in this regard, African nations, including Namibia, are industrializing their economies, in order to increase capacity for trade of finished goods.

INFRASTRUCTURE

7. Modern, reliable infrastructure is critical for high and sustained economic growth. Without it, almost everything in the economic value chain tends to be slower, less reliable and more expensive.
8. Namibia strives to achieve Energy Supply Security through a mix of economically competitive and reliable sources, with emphasis on the development of its own generating capacity, based primarily on renewable sources. To this end, the National Integrated Resource Plan, National Energy Policy and National Independent Power Producer policy were developed. The following activities were undertaken in last 4 years:
 9. The Single Buyer Model was reviewed to enable the distribution of power supply, generated by Independent Power Producers (IPP). De-regulation of the Single Buyer
 10. Model has been approved by Cabinet, permitting IPPs to generate and distribute electricity to the end user.
 11. As at December 2018, Namibia's electricity demand stood at 652 Megawatts excluding Skorpion Mine. The country increased local generating capacity from 400 Megawatts in 2015, to 557 Megawatts in 2018 - by NamPower and IPPs. In addition to locally generated power, we continue to import 318 Megawatts from the SADC Power Pool.

12. Namibia generates 40 percent of its own electricity demand from renewable sources, which contribute a total 189 Megawatts to national supply. The unbundling of distribution are key reforms that have opened up the sector for investment, to tune of 3 billion Namibian Dollars.
13. Rural Electrification and Access: The rural electrification coverage has increased from approximately 18 percent in 2015 to, 20 percent in 2018. A total of 970 rural schools, health facilities and public institutions have been electrified during the period.
14. Transport infrastructure: Namibia has well-established road infrastructure, comprising of more than 44,500 kilometers of national networks and ranked Number 1 in Africa for Road Infrastructure, in 2018.
15. Over the past 4 years, 819 kilometers of bitumen standard road have been added to the national road network and 373 kilometers of gravel roads were completed.
16. □Upgrading of Windhoek-Okahandja dual carriage road has commenced and the current phase is due for completion in 2019; Swakopmund-Walvis Bay dual carriage road has commenced and due for completion 2020 and Windhoek-Hosea-Kutako-International-Airport dual carriage road has commenced.

17. The Port of Walvis Bay was deepened and the New Container Terminal constructed at a cost of 4 billion Namibian Dollars, and is expected to be commissioned mid 2019.

18. Government took a principled decision to cancel the Hosea Kutako International Airport upgrading tender, which was inflated from 3 billion to 7 billion Namibian Dollars. This was despite the urgent need to upgrade the airport.

19. Government is also finalising the construction of the National Oil Storage Facility.

CONCLUSION

20. The High Commission of Namibia express its appreciation to the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) to provide a reflection on Namibia's Infrastructure situation in response to the Annual CIBN Lecture.

21. Through exchange of best practices, Nigeria and Namibia can draw inspiration from advances made in the two countries and continue stimulating African solutions to African problems.