



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**SPEECH BY HON. LUCIA IPUMBU, MP**

**MINISTER OF INDUSTRIALISATION AND TRADE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF MAYANA COMMUNITY IRRIGATION AND**

**CLIMATE RESILIENCE SCHEME**

**VENUE: MAYANA VILLAGE**

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 24 APRIL 2024**

**Programme Director: Dr. Michal Humavindu**

**Hon. Hon. Bonifatius Wakudumo - Governor of Kavango East Region**

**Queen Sofia Mundjembwe wa Kanyetu of the Va Sambyu Traditional**

**Leonard Magara - Engineering Director: Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility | CRIDF**

**Mr. Joseph Mbamba - Chairperson of Mayana Irrigation Scheme**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Our Esteemed Beneficiaries and community at large**

**Members of the Media;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am delighted to address you this morning at this momentous handover of the Mayana Community Irrigation and Climate Resilience Scheme project. This project was started in 2020 and we are delighted that it has finally come to fruition.

The Mayana project is part of the overall Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) II Water for Livelihoods programme, using community - based adaptation to alleviate poverty arising from increasing incidences of crop failure, and the inability to produce higher value crops, in combination with a declining economic climate. This project is timely as Namibia continues to grapple severe droughts, which possess a risk of disrupting food security in our country.

The project presents an opportunity to deliver immediate irrigation water security and climate resilience benefits for our marginalised communities with beneficiaries totalling about 700. The project is focussed on improving the livelihoods within Mayana through market linkages and institutional organisation for long-term sustainability.

The Ministry of Industrialisation and Trade (MIT) has been supportive of this initiative since its inception, which is in line with the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) priorities on infrastructure development as its major vehicle to achieve regional integration and poverty alleviation.

The project primarily aligns with SADC's Regional strategic Action Plan (RSAP) IV, Programme 5 objectives, specifically Programme 5.1.3 which aims to develop demonstration projects, which need to be implemented and scaled - up in order to build the capacities of communities to apply Integrated Water Resources Management principles at various stages of project development and implementation through a "learning by doing approach".

Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) has supported this project immensely which has resulted in installation of raw water supply and development of approximately 50 ha of small - scale climate resilient irrigation for the Mayana community. This is a multi - sector project with a livelihoods component for communities at risk of drought in the Namibian part of the Okavango basin (OKAKOM). It aligns itself with CRIDF's Okavango Basin Strategy and its ongoing support to identify viable ways to support

communities to develop livelihoods through appropriate irrigation interventions. The project contributes to the economic strengthening and sustainability of underprivileged communities by creating opportunities to unlock the economic potential of an area through agriculture.

The water for irrigation is supplied by efficient 200kW solar powered, submersible pumps that is installed on flood proofed abstraction works. The water is pumped to the farm lands, which comprises of 50 plots, 1ha in size. Each 1 ha plots are installed with impact sprinklers mounted on dragline irrigation stands. The sprinklers will be moved over a two day period to different sprinkler locations.

In conclusion, allow me to applaud our traditional, local authorities and national leadership for fully supporting of this project to which we bear witness of its completion and handover today.

Let us seize this opportunity as the community of Mayana and utilize these resources to harness our livelihood. The success of this of this project lies in our collective efforts and we must indeed embrace this timely and important development.

**I thank you.**