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**Keynote Address**

**Hon. Bonifatius Wakudumo, Governor of the Kavango East Region**

At the

**For the Commissioning of the Kayengona and Shamvura Water  
Filtration Plants, Kavango East**

**20<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

- **Director of Ceremonies**
- **Esteemed Regional and Town Council's councillors present**
- **Mr. Abraham Nehemia, Chief Executive Officer of NamWater Y**
- **Esteemed Traditional Authority Leaders**
- **Kavango East Regional Commander: Commissioner Johanna Ngondo**
- **Management cadre of NamWater present**
- **Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform present**
- **Representatives from EAM and WTS Team**
- **Community and local leaders**
- **Members of the media,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen!**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Distinguished Guests,**

It is a profound honor and privilege to stand before you today at the commissioning of the Kayengona and Shamvura Water Supply - River Schemes. This milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our government and NamWater to addressing the essential needs of our communities, particularly here in the Kavango East region.

The Namibian Government has consistently demonstrated its dedication to ensuring that all citizens have access to a quality water supply that meets national standards for both quantity and quality. These efforts align with our national strategic objectives as outlined in National Development Plan 5 and the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP II), with a vision toward 2030.

Water is life. It sustains us, nourishes our communities, and drives our development. The power of water as a catalyst for development cannot be overstated. It is essential for health, agriculture, industry, and overall socio-economic growth. Without access to clean and reliable water, our aspirations for progress and prosperity would remain unfulfilled.

**Director of Ceremonies,  
Community Members,**

The Kayengona and Shamvura Water Supply - River Schemes represent a strategic intervention designed to address critical water supply and quality challenges in the Kavango East region. This project, which includes the design, manufacture, supply, delivery, installation, and

commissioning of filtration plants for both Kayengona and Shamvura, is a significant investment. The total investment amounts to N\$ 5,208,850.00, with the Kayengona Filtration Plant costing N\$ 2,483,432.00 and the Shamvura Filtration Plant N\$ 2,725,418.00. These investments highlight our shared commitment to enhancing water infrastructure and ensuring reliable water services for our people.

Commencing in September 2023 and concluding in July 2024, this project was executed within the stipulated timeframe. The schemes were commissioned and handed over to NamWater from July 22-24, 2024, marking the beginning of a new era of water supply for our region.

The primary objective of this initiative was to resolve persistent water supply and quality issues faced by the communities of Kayengona and Shamvura. These areas, historically reliant on boreholes, have experienced exponential population growth, resulting in increased water demand and quality concerns, particularly with high turbidity and iron levels in Shamvura. This project aligns with our commitment to comply with the Water Resource Management Act of 2013 and ensures the provision of safe and potable water.

The newly constructed filtration systems, designed to produce water with a turbidity of no more than 0.5 NTU, are now delivering water with an impressive quality of 0.19 NTU. Additionally, the flow capacity has significantly increased from 15 m<sup>3</sup>/h to 40 m<sup>3</sup>/h, effectively meeting the rising water demands of these growing communities.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Distinguished Guests,**

The filtration systems at both Kayengona and Shamvhura utilize advanced treatment processes, including river floating pumps, chemical dosing (coagulation), dual media filters, blowers, and disinfection systems. While Kayengona employs chlorine gas for disinfection, Shamvhura utilizes sodium hypochlorite. These systems ensure that both schemes deliver water of the highest quality, addressing the long-standing water challenges faced by our communities.

The successful completion of this project not only meets the immediate water supply needs but also enhances overall compliance with national water quality standards. More importantly, it brings transformative change to the livelihoods of the people in Kavango East. Access to clean, safe, and reliable water is fundamental to health, economic development, and social well-being. This project will have far-reaching positive impacts, from improved public health to increased agricultural productivity and overall community upliftment.

Just over a month ago, on July 1st, 2024, I had the honor of witnessing the groundbreaking of the Rundu Water Treatment Plant Extension and Associated Works, a project valued at N\$ 665 million. This monumental undertaking is another vital component of our broader strategy to enhance water infrastructure in our region. The Rundu Water Treatment Plant, once completed, will further bolster our capacity to provide reliable and high-quality water services, supporting both urban and rural communities.

These projects, including today's commissioning and the Rundu groundbreaking, reflect the government's steadfast commitment to bringing water closer to our people. I would like to extend our deepest gratitude to NamWater for its relentless efforts to ensure that there is "Water for All, Forever" across Namibia. NamWater's vision aligns perfectly with our national goals of sustainable development and improved living standards for all Namibians.

The Kayengona and Shamvura Water Supply - River Schemes are part of a larger, integrated water management system that NamWater is implementing nationwide. This system aims to secure sustainable water supplies for current and future generations, ensuring that our nation can thrive in the face of increasing demand and environmental challenges.

For the people of Kavango East, and indeed for all Namibians, access to potable water means improved health, greater economic opportunities, and an enhanced quality of life. NamWater has achieved a notable milestone in its dedication to enhancing water supply infrastructure, ensuring that these two projects were completed in a timely manner. It is encouraging to see NamWater's commitment to improved service delivery, which increases customer satisfaction. However, we must also recognize the significant costs associated with infrastructure development, construction, and water treatment.

Therefore, we should not only appreciate the services provided by NamWater but also individually contribute by paying for the water services provided to us. When you pay your water bill, you are directly contributing to Namibia's development, and you should take pride in your role.

The Kayengona and Shamvura Water Supply - River Schemes will foster social and economic advancement by recognizing that water, both in quantity and quality, is a critical component in all socio-economic activities. Let us give a big round of applause to NamWater for ensuring that there is indeed "Water for All, Forever!"

As we officially commission the Kayengona and Shamvura Water Supply - River Schemes today, let this moment be a testament to what we can achieve through collaboration, dedication, and strategic vision. These projects symbolize hope, progress, and a brighter future for our communities.

As we celebrate the commissioning of the Kayengona and Shamvura Water Supply - River Schemes, let us recognize the collective efforts that have made this possible. Let us acknowledge the crucial role of government interventions and the dedication of NamWater in ensuring sustainable water supply. Most importantly, let us look forward to a future where every Namibian has access to the water they need to live healthy, productive, and fulfilling lives.

With these remarks, I hereby officially commission the Kayengona and Shamvura Filtration Plants. May this endeavor bring about positive transformation and enhanced access to water resources for the Kayengona and Shamvura communities and surrounding areas.

Thank you all for being part of this significant occasion. Together, we are building a brighter, more prosperous future for Kavango East and all of Namibia.

Thank you.