



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HONOURABLE DR. ALBERT
KAWANA, MP, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS,
IMMIGRATION, SAFETY AND SECURITY ON THE
OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL INAUGURATION
CEREMONY OF ELUNDU POLICE POST**

Thursday, 24 October 2024

**Elundu-
Ohenghono Village
Ohangwena Region**

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Honourable Lieutenant General (Rtd) Sebastian Haitota Ndeitunga, Governor of Ohangwena Region;**
- **Honourable Ben Likando, Director-General of the Namibia Central Intelligence Service represented by Mr. Lisias Nepaka;**
- **Lieutenant General Joseph Shimweelao Shikongo, Inspector-General of the Namibian Police Force;**
- **Honourable Erkki Nghimtina, Former MP and Minister of Works and Transport;**
- **Honourable Major General (Rtd) Charles D.N.P. Namoloh, Former MP and Minister of Safety and Security in absentia;**
- **Honourable Billy William Mwaningange, Former MP and Deputy Minister of Defence;**
- **Your Excellency Mr. Zhao Weiping, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Namibia in absentia;**

- **Lieutenant General (Rtd) Martin Shalli, Former Chief of the Namibian Defence Force;**
- **Your Majesty Meekulu Martha Mwadinhomoya Kristian Nelumbu, Queen of Oukwanyama Traditional Authority;**
- **Mr. Kevin Lee, Managing Director of Cheetah Cement, represented by Mr Zedekias Gowaseb;**
- **Mr. Hans-Wilhelm Schutte, Managing Director of Ohorongo Cement (PTY) Ltd in absentia;**
- **Mr. Martin Schoeman, Managing Director of Pupkewitz and Megabuild Group, represented by Mr. Pierre Wagner;**
- **Mr. Qui Bin, Chief Executive Officer of Swakop Uranium, represented by Mr. Patrick Kamwi Chizabulyo;**
- **Commissioner Otilie Kashuupulwa, Police Regional Commander of Oshana Region;**
- **Honourable Festus Ikanda, Councillor of Omundaungilo Constituency;**

- **Commissioner (Rtd) Elisa Elia Hauliyondjamba, Former Police Commissioner;**
- **Major General (Rtd) David Mbandeka;**
- **Comrade Festus Shikongo “Nehale Lyokoshandi”**
- **Comrade Martha Mbandeka;**
- **Comrade William Ikokonane Kenyata;**
- **Comrade Samuel Maxwilili;**
- **Senior Government Officers and Officials Present;**
- **Distinguished Traditional and Religious Leaders Present;**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Distinguished Invited Guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning,

1. It is indeed an honour for me to be here today to officiate at this auspicious occasion - the inauguration of Elundu Police Post, here in Omundaungilo Constituency, Ohangwena Region. Given the historical significance of this area, allow me to request all of you to rise and observe a moment of silence in honour of our gallant sons and daughters who sacrificed their lives during the national liberation struggle for the independence of our Land of the Brave Namibia. Attention.

2. Before I proceed further, I would like to acknowledge the presence of special invited guests, which include former members of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), and former commanders and former fighters, especially those who were operating from this former Front. Given the significance of Elundu, we made an effort to invite former PLAN commanders and those who were operating from this former Front. I would like to single out Comrades such as **Hon. Minister (Rtd) Erkki Nghimtina; Hon. Major General (Rtd) Charles Namoloh, Former MP and former Minister of Safety and Security in absentia; Hon. Former Deputy Minister of Defence (Rtd) Billy William Mwaningange; Lieutenant General (Rtd) Martin Shalli, former Chief of the Namibian Defence Force; Commissioner (Rtd) Elisa Elia Hauliyondjaba;**

Comrade Samuel Maxwilili; Comrade Ikokonane William Kenyata; Comrade Martha Mbandeka; Comrade Festus Shikongo “Nehale Lyokoshandi”; Comrade Maj. Gen. (Rtd) David Mbandeka.

I thank you most sincerely for accepting our invitation, we are very happy that you are in our midst at this shrine of our revolution. It is regrettable that some of the former PLAN combatants who were part of the military operation during the capture of Van der Messh from the Zambezi Region who I should have invited such as the late Comrade Martin Masiye Mutanimiye and the late Comrade John Sinvula passed on in subsequent military operations. May their souls rest in eternal peace. In the same vein, I would like to thank the Honourable Governor for welcoming us to this great Region.

Equally, I would like to recognize the presence of all the distinguished invited guests, for having found time out of their busy schedule to witness this outstanding milestone with us. I am particularly happy to have in our midst, a representative of a special Namibian citizen, Meekulu Martha Mwadin homo ya Kristian Nelumbu, Queen of Oukwanyama Traditional Authority. We are extremely happy to see the representative of Meekulu.

3. Following my appointment as Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security in April 2021, I undertook border inspection along Namibia/Angola border during August 2021.

When I came here at Elundu post, I found my Comrades living in old tents and with limited facilities. I pledged that I will endeavour to improve the conditions of this post. I went back to Windhoek and started to plan. We were able to source pre-fab building materials from Swakop Uranium with the assistance of His Excellency Zhao Weiping, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Namibia. In addition, we were able to source cement from Cheetah Cement, 200 bags; Ohorongo Cement, 200 bags; and Megabuild Group of Pupketwitz, 200 bags. I came back here on 25 July 2023 to do a groundbreaking ceremony. Again I came back here in June this year to monitor the progress of the project. Today, 24 October 2024, I am extremely happy to be here for the fourth time to finally inaugurate the Elundu Police Post.

4. Elundu is one of those places which take patriotic Namibians back to memory lane. As one of our heroes stated, **slavery and death are one and the same thing.** These words were said by one of our heroes of Namibia, non other than King Mandume ya Ndemufayo. Indeed he showed us the path to freedom by not surrendering to the enemy. He showed us the spirit of **let us die fighting.** Our national liberation struggle was long and bitter, said another icon and hero of Namibia, the late Andimba Toivo ya Toivo. I deliberately chose to build this special project here at Elundu because of its special history in our struggle for national liberation.

5. During the armed struggle for national liberation, many battles took place in this area. Our gallant freedom fighters, members of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) fought many battles in this area. They captured a member of the Apartheid South African Army by the name of Van der Messh during the battle that was commanded by the late Danger Ruben Ashipala, may his soul rest in eternal peace. Therefore, this place is one of the shrines of our revolution. We salute our gallant PLAN fighters, they fought tough battles so that today we can proudly say Namibia is a free and sovereign Country which has taken her place among the free nations of the world. To those who sacrificed we say: **Their Blood Waters Our Freedom.**

6.I am particularly pleased to state that our Ministry maintains a healthy relationship with the Business community as well as with our community. Today we have those who are coming to our assistance, such as the financing of a Police Station at DRC in Erongo Region and Oshakati in Oshana Region. Therefore, today we salute Your Excellency Mr. Zhao Weiping, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Namibia; today we salute Swakop Uranium, we salute you Mr. Qui Bin the Chief Executive Officer of Swakop Uranium; today we salute Cheetah Cement, we salute you Mr. Kevin Lee, the Managing Director of Cheetah Cement; today we salute you Ohorongo Cement, we salute Mr. Hans-Wilhelm Schutte, the Managing Director of Ohorongo Cement;

today we salute Pupkewitz and Megabuild Group, we salute Mr. Martin Schoeman, the Managing Director of Pupkewitz and Megabuild Group. Allow me, once again, to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to all those who made a generous donation to the projects of our Ministry. Allow me, in the same vein, to use this opportunity to call upon good Samaritans to donate more building materials for the construction of police accommodation.

7.I am, therefore, pleased to note that the Government of the Republic of Namibia continues to prioritise infrastructure development for all Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies and the Namibian Police Force is no exception.

Henceforth, the construction of police facilities such as the one we are inaugurating here today is a clear indication of Government's commitment to its resolution of ensuring effective and efficient service delivery our people.

Director of Ceremony;

Distinguished invited guests;

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. The Namibian Police Force is entrusted with an immense responsibility of safety and security of the Republic of Namibia: i.e. preserving the internal security of Namibia, maintaining law and order and protecting lives and properties, among others.

9. In respect to these mammoth tasks, and the determination to ensure that Namibia enjoys peace and stability, our Government has particularly placed the affairs of the Namibian Police Force among its top priorities. The Government is, therefore, making a tangible and long-lasting contribution to our country's progress towards, *inter alia*, becoming a prosperous nation, enjoying peace and political stability, in line with our development goals, as outlined in Vision 2030, the National Development Plans and the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

10. You will agree with me that our Government has attached immense importance to the safety and security sector, as Cabinet has positioned safety and security in the fourth place on the list of national priorities in our Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5).

11. The police post we are inaugurating here today is more than just a structure; it is a symbol of hope, a beacon of security, and a pillar of support to the residents of Omundaungilo Constituency. It will serve as a place where the community can turn for assistance, where justice will be upheld, and where the values of our nation – peace, unity, stability and solidarity – will be reinforced.

12. To the officers who will be stationed here, I urge you to serve with integrity, dedication, and a deep sense of responsibility. Remember that you are the guardians of the trust that the people have placed in you. The community looks up to you for protection and support, and it is through your tireless efforts that we can build a safer and more secure society. Let the spirit of the liberation struggle inspire you to continue working diligently for the safety and security of all Namibians.

Distinguished Guests;

Distinguished invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. Our mission to build a safer Namibia is one that requires the active participation of all stakeholders – Government, private sector, traditional leaders, and community members alike.

As we celebrate this milestone, I call upon the people of Omundaungilo to join hands with the Namibian Police Force in the fight against crime and to foster a culture of lawfulness and mutual respect. By working together, we can ensure that the sacrifices of those who fought for our independence were not in vain, and that the peace they longed for becomes a lasting reality in our daily lives.

14. The main components of this Police Post include the construction of prefabricated structures of two (2) barracks, with ten (10) rooms for male and six (6) rooms for females; a charge office; recreational area; a kitchen; a dining hall; a security fence; one (1) borehole with solar powered pump; a water stand; a water tank with the capacity of 10 000 litres; and one (1) septic tank. The total cost of this project is seven million, seven hundred and thirty-six thousand, four hundred, and forty-six Namibia Dollars, twenty-six cents (N\$7,736, 446.26).

Director of Ceremonies;

Distinguished invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. Allow me to register my disappointment with the trend of crimes which are very disturbing in our country. Official national statistics particularly on Gender-Based Violence reported to the Namibian Police Force show that crimes committed against women and children are on the increase, and Ohangwena Region is one of the regions with the highest reported cases of Gender-Based Violence. It is, therefore, my submission that a holistic approach is required from all stakeholders to address this phenomenon. I therefore call upon traditional and church leaders, and the community at large to support the Namibian Police Force in its quest to combat crime.

16. As I conclude, I wish to once again express my deepest appreciation to everyone who has played a role in making this day possible – our political leaders, the Namibian Police Force, our private sector partners, our traditional leaders, our religious leaders, our community leaders, and every person who has supported this endeavour.

17. May this police post serve as a lasting symbol of our collective commitment to the safety, security, and unity of our beloved nation.

18. With these words, I now have the honour and privilege to declare the Elundu Police Post officially inaugurated.

I thank you!