



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY**

**HON. EMMA THEOFELUS, MP  
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGY (MICT),**

**AT THE COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF  
NAMIBIA (CRAN) UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND (USF) SITE  
LAUNCH: EPINGA**

**DATE:** Wednesday, 19 November 2025

**VENUE:** Epinga, Ohangwena Region

**TIME:** 10h00

- Hon. Phillipus Iikanda, Omundaungilo Constituency Councillor,

- Hon. Mayor of Eenhana Town and any other Regional Authority and Local Authority Councillors present,
- Dr. Tulimevava Mufeti, Chairperson: CRAN Board of Directors,
- CRAN Board of Directors,
- CRAN Executive Management and Team,
- Dr. Licky Erastus, Managing Director, MTC,
- MTC Executive Management and Team,
- Ooyene yomikuunda muli mokati ketu,
- Distinguished Invited Guests,
- Esteemed Stakeholders,
- Members of the Media,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

Otwalalapo Oomeme no Tate, Okuku no Tatekulu?

Aaye, inatuhafa ketenda letwapo pEpinga mbela. Ondiigolo

It is with great pleasure to celebrate this historic occasion, the official launch of the Universal Service Fund Epinga Tower here in the beautiful Ohangwena Region. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you present here today, especially the community members who have taken the time to come out and share in this moment of progress. Your presence signifies your commitment to development and your belief in a future where connectivity empowers all.

Today's event marks more than just the unveiling of a new piece of infrastructure. It symbolises our collective journey toward a more inclusive and connected Namibia. The launch of the USF Epinga Tower is a milestone that embodies progress, inclusion, and empowerment. It stands as a testament to our nation's unwavering commitment to ensuring that every Namibian, regardless of their location, has access to vital communication services. This tower is a gateway that will open doors to opportunities, education, healthcare, and economic growth.

This project aligns perfectly with our national priorities. It is a concrete step toward achieving our vision for universal access to Information and Communication Technologies. Bridging the digital divide remains at the core of our development agenda. The Government of the Republic of

Namibia recognises that in today's world, digital connectivity is not a luxury but a necessity and an essential driver of social and economic development. The USF Epinga Tower will help ensure that no Namibian is left behind and that rural and underserved communities are fully included in our digital progress.

It is important to highlight that as we advance into Phase two of the Universal Service Fund rollout, government has already committed N\$145 million to ensure that no community is left behind. This allocation forms part of the national commitment under capital projects for the period 2024 to 2027, aimed at accelerating the deployment of digital technology and infrastructure across the country.

Allow me to briefly reflect on our progress under Phase one of the programme. Through the Universal Service Fund, nine 4G mobile radio access network towers were approved for construction across the Kavango East, Kavango West, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Kunene Regions. However, other regions are catered for in other programs being operated by the Ministry to expand network connectivity. Once completed, these sites will provide 4G services to an additional 4,765 Namibians who previously had no connectivity. In addition, the programme will deliver free 4G voice and broadband data services for seven years to sixteen schools and four clinics in these areas. After this period, the Ministries of Health and Social Services and Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture will assume responsibility for sustaining these services. Today's

commissioning of the Epinga site marks the first of these Phase one towers to go live, with the remaining sites to follow in due course.

Under Phase two, eleven sites have been allocated for new infrastructure development. The bidding process has been completed, and I am pleased to announce that the award of these sites will be made public this Friday, 21 November 2025.

Looking ahead, assessments are already underway to identify additional locations for Phase three of the Universal Service Fund rollout. This is why the Ministry of ICT has been visiting regional leaders across the country to properly pinpoint the areas in various regions that require connectivity or strengthened communications.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Our President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah is very clear, we are not operating as business as usual. Therefore our actions, our operations, our governing documents can not operate in the usual manner, we need to embrace this new marching orders on how the country is being led from the highest office, and cascaded down to every government entity and entities that are an extension of government, up to the constituency level. One heart, One mind. This successful execution of the USF since the Comms Act was enacted in 2009 indicates the broader vision of this administration and it's leadership. And we at the Ministry of ICT intend to guide this sector to achieve this country's vision for continued growth and progress of

digitization for the benefit of all Namibians. As Minister of ICT charged with the policy and political leadership of this industry, you can count on my commitment to ensure that happens.

Connectivity has the power to transform lives in profound ways. With access to mobile networks, a learner in Epinga can now access online study materials, participate in remote learning, and broaden their horizons beyond traditional classroom walls. A farmer can check market prices in real time, enabling better decision making and improved income. Small business owners can reach new customers beyond their immediate surroundings, expanding their markets and creating jobs. In the same way, the local clinic, as an anchor institution, can now use mobile connectivity to access telemedicine services, enabling healthcare workers to consult specialists remotely, receive updated treatment guidelines instantly, and report health emergencies more efficiently. This will help reduce delays in care, improve disease management, and strengthen health outcomes for the entire community. In essence, connectivity uplifts livelihoods, empowers communities, and fuels national development.

I also want to recognise and celebrate the collaborative effort that has brought us here today. The successful deployment of this tower is a testament to teamwork between the MICT, Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia through the Universal Service Fund, Mobile Telecommunications Limited, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, and most importantly, the community members of Epinga. It is through this

collective effort that we have achieved this milestone. Your cooperation, trust, and active participation have been instrumental in turning this vision into reality.

The benefits of today's launch extend beyond the physical tower. As part of our commitment to advancing digital inclusion, the Universal Service Fund is proud to announce the donation of twenty smartphones to residents of Epinga, along with the distribution of one hundred SIM cards. Mobile Telecommunications Limited will also make discounted smartphones available for purchase. Furthermore, a mobile service van will provide ongoing support, training, and assistance directly within communities, bringing the benefits of connectivity closer to your doorsteps.

Director of Ceremonies

As we switch on the signal today, we are also switching on hope, connection, and possibility. We are opening new chapters of learning, enterprise, and social cohesion. Let this tower stand as a symbol of our collective aspiration: a Namibia where no one is left behind, where everyone has a voice, and where connectivity empowers all to reach their full potential.

It is now my honour to officially launch the Universal Service Fund Epinga Tower. May it stand tall as a beacon of progress for generations to come.

I thank you.