



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HER EXCELLENCY LUCIA WITBOOI,  
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,  
AT THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HANDING OVER OF  
HOUSEHOLD GRID CONNECTIONS & AERIAL BUNDLED  
CONDUCTOR (ABC) NETWORKS, AND PUBLIC STREET  
LIGHTING OF SUNRISE INFORMAL SETTLEMENT.**

**FRIDAY, 12 JUNE 2026**

**GIBEON  
HARDAP REGION**

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Honourable Modestus Amutse, Minister of Industries, Mines & Energy;**
- **Honourable Riaan Charles McNab, Governor of the Hardap Regional;**
- **Honourable Jeremias G. Van Neel, Councilor of the Gibeon Constituency;**
- **Honourable Ellerien Isaaks //Kheibes, Chairperson of the Gibeon Village Council;**
- **Mr. Willy Mertens, Chief Executive officer of Debmarine Namibia, and Members of Management of Debmarine Namibia;**
- **Regional and Local Authority Councilors present;**
- **The School Principals of the Gibeon;**
- **Our Reverend/ Comrade Josefats Fredericks;**
- **The Beneficiaries, the proud residents of Sunrise Informal Settlement;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good morning.**

**Today is a joyful occasion, a day that marks a defining milestone for the community of this historic Village. We are gathered to officially announce the successful installation of electricity to 15 vulnerable members of our community here in Gibeon.**

**In addition, I am pleased to note that the Sunrise Informal Settlement has also benefited through the connection of Aerial Bundled Cable (ABC) lines and installation of street lighting.**

**This installation of street lights lays critical infrastructure for the near-future electrification of Households here at Sunrise informal settlement. These street lights will effectively banish the dark corners that once bred vulnerability, replacing them with light, security, and peace of mind.**

**I am informed by the Gibeon Village Council that, plans are underway for further installation of street lights in the near future. These developments are highly commendable and are meant to foster economic growth, restore dignity and improve the lives of the residents of Gibeon.**

**Director of Ceremonies;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**The Government recognize that access to electricity is not a luxury; it is a fundamental human right and a powerful engine for development. By bringing power to these households, we are doing much more than simply installing poles and cables. For these families, access to electricity means the children can study after dark in a safe, well-lit environment. It means families can preserve food, and also start to grow businesses right from their doorsteps.**

**With this development, we are empowering our community to transform this area socially and economically.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**This milestone did not happen overnight, and certainly, it was not a solo effort. It was a result of an effective collaboration between various roll-players. Therefore,**

**allow me to take this moment to sincerely thank all the stakeholders who made this electricity connection possible.**

**Notably, I would like to acknowledge and truly thank our funding partner, Debmarine Namibia under the leadership of Mr. Willy Merten, for funding this project to the tune of over N\$200 000. When the people knocked on your doors, you listened to their humble plea; you did not hesitate to assist. Today, you are the reason these people carry a smile on their faces. You have contributed to the restoration of their hopes and their dignity. Your corporate patriotism and unwavering commitment to this project, is highly appreciated.**

**Equally, I also thank the Gibeon Village Council for smooth facilitation of the entire process of this project. This development is a true manifestation of the opportunities and the strength of a public-private partnership for socio-economic development.**

**Director of Ceremonies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**The government, through the Ministry of Mines and Energy, remains committed to continuous development and improving the living conditions of our people in urban and peri-urban areas. This project aligns perfectly with our national goal of expanding energy access to every citizen, ensuring that no community is left behind. However, to full realize this goal requires collaborative efforts. In this regard, I once again, call upon the private sector to join forces with government to address critical socio-economic challenges, including expanding electricity access to our people across the country.**

**To the beneficiaries and residents of Gibeon:**

**This infrastructure belongs to you. It is your collective wealth, protect these installations from vandalism so that the benefits of this milestone can be enjoyed by generations to come. As beneficiaries, let us work together to ensure that this development brings lasting prosperity to this community.**

**In conclusion, let us embrace this positive change. Let us hold hands and march forward, united and unstopped to build a progressive and prosperous Gibeon.**

**May this development be a symbol of hope, opportunity and bright future to the entire community of Gibeon.**

**May the Good Lord continue to bless Gibeon, the Hardap Region, and the entire Republic of Namibia.**

**I thank you.**