



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

REMARKS ON THE SEPTIC TANK REPLACEMENT PROJECT-PHASE 1)

BY

HON. EVELYN NAWASES-TAEYELE

DEPUTY MINISTER

MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
GROUNDBREAKING: TAXI RANK, OPEN MARKET, AND HANDING OVER
OF SEWER PUMP STATION**

HENTIES BAY, ERONGO REGION

25 OCTOBER 2024

**Hon. Lucia lipumbu-Minister of Trade and Industrialization,
Hon. Neville Andre Itope, Governor of Erongo Region,
Hon. Benitha Iimbamba, Chairperson of the Erongo Regional Council,
His Worship Cllr Lewies Vermaak-Mayor of Henties Bay,
Hon. Cllr- Michael Skini: Chairperson of Management Committee,
All Local Authority Councilors Present,
Representatives from different Ministries and or Government
Agencies,
Church Leaders,**

**Members of the media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning, and thank you for joining us. Today, we are gathered to celebrate significant milestones in Henties Bay's development, and I am here to deliver remarks on the completion of the first phase of the Septic Tank Replacement Project, which signifies a new era for sanitation in the town.

To begin with, it is essential to acknowledge the remarkable transformation of Henties Bay. Proclaimed as a municipality in 1979, Henties Bay has grown from a small community into a thriving hub.

Between 1991 and 2023, the population of Henties Bay increased from 1,612 to 7,569, an impressive growth of approximately 369%.

This substantial increase reflects not only the town's appeal but also broader trends of urbanisation and development in the area. Such growth therefore necessitates continual introspection, adaptation, and improvements in infrastructure and services to meet the needs of our growing community

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the world evolves and globalization accelerates, accompanied by rapid rural-urban migration, local authorities must adapt across all sectors. To address the challenges of population growth and meet the needs of the expanding community, the Municipality of Henties Bay has taken a proactive step by launching a transformative initiative: the replacement of outdated septic tanks.

For too long, residents of Henties Bay have dealt with the challenges posed by outdated septic tanks and vacuum sewer systems, which threatened both public health and our precious water resources. These systems were not only environmentally damaging but also economically burdensome.

The increasing population and development have underscored the urgent need for improved wastewater management systems to safeguard public health and ensure environmental protection.

This project was funded by the Namibian Government through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, with a total cost for the first phase amounting to *ten million, one hundred and eighty-four thousand, six hundred and sixty-nine Namibian dollars and sixty-nine cents (N\$ 10,184,669.69)*. This reflects our understanding as a Ministry on the economic challenges faced by local authorities and demonstrates our government's commitment to ensuring access to essential services for all.

The project commenced in June of last year and has already reached a significant milestone in just over a year, with the construction of a sewer pump station, the raising of the main sewer line, and the connection of 244 erven.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This successful completion of the first phase marks a pivotal moment in the history of our town. It represents not only the conclusion of months of dedicated work and strategic planning but also the beginning of a new chapter in our commitment to environmental stewardship and public health. This milestone is a testament to the collaborative efforts between the local municipality, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, and the citizens of Henties Bay, all of whom played crucial roles in bringing this vision to fruition.

The sewer system introduced by this project is a modern, efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly solution. It is designed to meet the demands of our growing population while preserving the natural beauty and resources of our region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we celebrate this achievement, we must also look ahead to future phases of the project. Continued expansion and improvement of our wastewater management system are essential for sustaining progress and meeting the needs of our ever-evolving community.

Let the lessons learnt from this phase inform future initiatives, paving the way for innovative approaches to urban development and service delivery.

In our pursuit of development, I urge that we adapt to the changing times. The world is evolving rapidly, presenting challenges requiring innovative solutions.

Let us learn from each other and engage with our stakeholders for guidance as we progress.

I want to thank the Henties Bay Municipality and its management for their oversight and support of this project. I also thank CEPM Consulting Engineers & Project Managers, Capital Technical Services, and Mr. Dismon Kambatuamasa, the Strategic Executive of Infrastructure, for their invaluable contributions. I commend all involved for their dedication and hard work in making this initiative a reality.

This project demonstrates what can be achieved when government, local authorities, and citizens unite for the common good.

Let us carry this spirit of unity and determination as we embark on the next stages of our journey toward a brighter future for Henties Bay.

I wish you all success in the forthcoming phases and the project's completion and let us continue to support and engage with one another.

Thank you!!