



**WELCOMING REMARKS BY HONOURABLE ALETHA
FREDERICKS
AT THE LAUNCH OF EbA PROJECT AND AWARDING OF 12
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION GRANTS BY THE CBNRM
EDA PROJECT**

**6 NOVEMBER 2020
KEETMANSHOOP, //KHARAS REGION**



Director of ceremonies-

- Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Environment Forestry and Tourism
- Honourable Salomon April, Governor for Hardap Region
- Mr. Benedict Libanda, Chief Executive Officer for the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia.
- Mrs. Maxi Louis, Director of NACOS & PSC Member EbA and EDA
- CRO's and Regional Political Representatives
- Heads and staff members of Namibian Government Line Ministries
- Staff members of EIF,
- Members of the media
- Distinguished guest
- All protocol observed
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good Morning,

It's indeed an honor and a privilege to **welcome** you at this auspicious occasion that marks the launch of a project entitled “***Building Resilience of Communities Living in Eight Landscapes Threatened Under Climate Change Through an Ecosystem Based Adaptation Approach in Namibia***”,

And the awarding of twelve (12) grants to Community Based Natural Resource Based Organizations by the Enhanced Direct Access Project (EDA) project entitled “***Creating Climate Change Resilient Livelihoods Through Community Based Natural Resource Management in Namibia***”.

We are honored to have in our midst the Honourable Pohamba Shifeta, Minister of Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism together with The Executive Director , Mr. Theofilus Nghitila and Deputy Director of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the same ministry Mr. Petrus Muteyauli.

I would like to extend a special welcome to the Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Investment Fund Mr. Benedict Libanda and in the same vain I welcome Dr. Elijah Ngurare, The Director of the Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination within the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform.

I would also like acknowledge and express our sincere appreciation to Nama Traditional leaders Association for their continued support toward community development in the two sourthen regions.

I also want to acknowledge and recognized the presence of ministerial regional heads with decentralized structures at this event

To all our dignitaries and everyone , Your presence here today is testimony to the unity, value, commitment you have given to address the impact of climate change within the Namibian Landscape .

At this point, I would like to highly applaud our Government of the Republic of Namibia for the unparalleled support towards the empowerment of our local communities to adapt to climate change.

On behalf of all regional councils I would like to reiterate our commitment towards supporting the policies, strategies and programs that address climate change among our communities and landscapes.

We strive to intensify our efforts to realize not only objectives of the two projects but to also ensure their contribution to national development efforts .

Ladies and Gentlemen you will agree with me that interventions such as these provide the much needed knowledge in addressing climate induced problems by implementing adaptive modes that benefit communities .

This requires collaborative efforts between civic and civil partners to ensure that we have alternative strategies in place with multiple benefits to address climate change .

We appreciate and acknowledge the tireless effort of The Board, Management and staff of the Environmental Investment Fund of Namibia who accepted the responsibility on behalf of Government's efforts in lobbying for funds and implementing climate adaptive programs that not only improve living standards for communities but also create employment within the rural set up.

Ladies and gentlemen

Ecosystem based Adaptation concepts includes the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems to provide services that help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change .

The new Ecosystem-Based Adaptation project presents a great opportunity to review our conventional approaches and embrace the new methods that will take us beyond sustenance methods and practices .

At the same time, I would like to urge the twelve (12) beneficiary from the community based organizations to utilized the grants received for its rightfull purpose and what it was requested for. Finacial prudence should prevail with fair,equitable user rights over resources within your jurisdiction .

That said

I welcome all of you present here in ||Kharas region, and recognize the achievements of the two institutions, Environmental Investment Fund with collaborative support from Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism as National Designated AuthrORITY whose initiatives made it possible to realize this event, I challenge the rest to play their role to come on board and support these initiatives that address the impact of climate change amongst our communities .

As we mark this important day on our calendar, on behalf of the ||Kharas Regional Council , constituencies and its people I want to say once again, welcome. It's wonderful to see so many of you here, may this day be blessed.

I thank you!!!