



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HON EMMA THEOFELUS, MP,  
MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION OF TECHNOLOGY  
AT  
THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF THE POWERCOM MUPINI  
TOWER  
THURSDAY, 18 JULY 2024**

Wee Kavango West Wee, Wee Kavango West Wee. Mpandu Thank you Honourable Councillor of Ncuncuni Constituency, councillor Leopoldine Nseu

Director of Ceremonies

Mbunza Traditional Authority Hompa Alfons Kaundu

Nkuruforoman Neromba Frieda

The leadership of the Kavango West region present here today in your various capacities

PowerCom Pty Ltd Board of Directors led by Ms. Tonata Nghifitikeko Executive Management of PowerCom Pty Ltd lead by the CEO Mr. Beatus Amadhila

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Metahazeni. Mpandu

Today, I stand before you with immense pride as we witness the groundbreaking ceremony for a new telecommunication tower here in Mupini. This project represents far more than just the construction of a physical structure; it is a giant leap forward in Namibia's digital journey, opening up a world of opportunity for the people of Rundu and the Kavango Region.

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) is driven by a clear and unwavering vision: to transform Namibia into a digitally inclusive nation, where technology empowers all citizens and acts as a cornerstone for progress. This vision underpins every aspect of our work, from crafting national policy to spearheading critical infrastructure development initiatives.

We are actively pursuing several initiatives that weave the fabric of this digital future. Our "Smart Namibia" strategy focuses on leveraging technology as a powerful tool to propel economic growth, enhance service delivery across sectors, and empower citizens to actively participate in shaping their destinies. The "Access for All" program is a cornerstone initiative, dedicated to expanding broadband connectivity across the nation, particularly in underserved rural areas like those in the Kavango West. These initiatives are not mere pronouncements; they are concrete steps, meticulously planned and diligently executed, to ensure all Namibians have the opportunity to thrive in the digital age.

Today, we celebrate a shining example of this vision translated into tangible action. I want to express my deepest appreciation to PowerCom for their unwavering commitment to building this critical telecommunication tower in Mupini. This project not only aligns perfectly with the

MICT's mission but significantly advances our broader objectives for a digitally connected Namibia.

PowerCom is not simply constructing infrastructure; they are building bridges. They are bridging the digital divide, connecting people to a world of information and opportunity, and empowering the Kavango West to actively participate in the digital age. This newfound connectivity will pave the way for a wave of innovation and entrepreneurship, fostering economic growth that will lead to a more prosperous Rundu and a more vibrant Kavango Region.

PowerCom has consistently demonstrated its dedication to enhancing Namibia's telecommunication infrastructure. In June 2022, they commissioned a new network tower in Okahandja, significantly improving access to telecommunications services and addressing unreliable network coverage. In Windhoek's Goreangab area, a new tower is under construction, aimed at addressing connectivity issues for residents and businesses. Furthermore, in early 2021, PowerCom commenced the construction of four new towers in Eenghodi, Kupferquelle, Onkani, and Ncaute. These projects underscore PowerCom's commitment to reducing the digital divide and promoting connectivity for all Namibians aligned with the broadband policy of the ministry of ICT.

The impact of this tower extends far beyond the Kavango West. This critical infrastructure strengthens Namibia's national telecommunication backbone, contributing significantly to our national development goals as outlined in the Harambee Prosperity Plan, a visionary initiative championed by our late and esteemed President DR. Hage G. Geingob. By ensuring equitable access to technology across the nation, we empower all Namibians to contribute to, and benefit from, a thriving digital economy. Imagine a Namibia where a farmer in a remote corner of the Kavango West can access real-time market prices for his crops, or a student in Rundu can connect with online educational resources from around the world. These are just a few examples of the transformative potential unlocked by this tower.

The ground-breaking of this tower is a powerful testament to the transformative power of partnership. The combined efforts of PowerCom, the Government of the Republic of Namibia, and the people of Mupini have made this project a reality. This collaborative spirit is crucial as we strive to build a truly connected Namibia, ensuring no one is left behind in the digital age. I listened carefully to reports as the national broadcaster NBC broadcasted the Kavango West region's State of the Region Address on here the Governor outlined challenges with network

connectivity in some parts of the Kavango West Region. Well, today we are here as the Ministry of Information and Communications and Technology along with our very able partner PowerCom to bring network towers to Mupini village where we are here today. As well as Tondoro in this very region will be getting a tower as soon as we leave this ceremony here today.

Today, we celebrate not just the ground breaking, but the boundless possibilities that lie ahead. This tower is a symbol of our collective commitment to bridging the digital divide and building a brighter digital future for all Namibians. Let us use this occasion as a springboard for further collaboration. Let us work together—government, industry, and citizens alike—to ensure that every Namibian has the opportunity to thrive in the digital age.

Imagine a Namibia where a young girl in Mupini can dream of becoming a tech entrepreneur, or a healthcare professional in a remote Kavango West village can access the latest medical advancements through a reliable internet connection. These are the possibilities we are working towards, and with continued collaboration, we can turn these dreams into reality. Together, let us build a Namibia where technology empowers, connects, and propels us all towards a more prosperous future.

This ground-breaking ceremony here in Mupini is inclusive of ground-breaking of towers in Tondoro, Rundu Ext 3, Kangongo. The Government of the Republic of Namibia is committed to the development of the Kavango West Region and the entire citizens of our beautiful country Namibia. We are expanding connectivity, increasing advanced internet access as we launched 5G earlier this year as well as making sure that no child will be left behind no matter where they are from.

**Thank you for your kind attention and metahazeni zomukwaha.**

**END//**