

Questions to the Namibian Ambassador Andreas Guibeb, Berlin 24.11.2020

Ambassador Guibeb, thank you for taking the time for our interview.

Solnam will start next year to first assemble and thereafter build the German Technology AEG Solar Panels and **Unicorn Energy's** Solar Battery Storage units "**EnergyCube**" at the proposed SOLAR Namibia (Solnam) Industry Park in Walvis Bay in Namibia. The Industry Park for photovoltaic modules and **EnergyCube** Battery production is expected to become in the future African Solar Excellence Hub where all innovations and applications derived from Solar Technology are to be found and exhibited.

These Germany Technology made-in-Namibia will be the basis of a **//Karas Solar Energy Farm** near the NAMPOWER Kokerboom Substation close to Keetmanshoop, the capital of the //Karas region of Namibia.

This will make Namibia the first country in Africa to produce renewable green energy from components assembled in the country to implement the government's Growth-at-home industrial development strategy. This venture opens the door for a energy supply future, independent from fossil fuels that will be replaced by first assembled-in-Namibia and thereafter manufactured-in Namibia international standard solar technology components.

1. Mr. Ambassador, what contribution will this project make to the further development of the Karas region and Namibia as a whole?

As you know the factory and the Solar Panel and **EnergyCube** Solar Battery will be built in Walvisbay, the gateway to the Erongo region of Namibia and the SADC region, where it is expected to create 150 sustainable jobs in the solar industry sector from the outset.

The //Karas Solar Energy Farm will be realized near the NAMPOWER Kokerboom Substation close to Keetmanshoop, the capital of the //Karas region. One hundred stable and sustainable operations and maintenance jobs are expected to be created by this //Karas Solar Energy Farm.

This is good news for Walvisbay and Keetmanshoop as well as the Erongo and //Karas regions. What is good for the Erongo and //Karas regions is good for Namibia and Africa as it opens a new era of energy independence for Africa based on international cooperation that translates the vision of fair economics that transfers technology, know-how, value addition and capacity building from Europe to Africa.

2. The Neckardal dam near Keetmanshoop was recently completed. In the new year, the construction of the //Karas Solar Energy Farm will commence. Does this mean that Namibia will realize its renewable energy future based entirely on renewable energy in the future?

Namibia is a co-signatory of the COP24 Treaty committing the nations of the world to climate change mitigating measures in order to achieve the reductions in emissions that will preserve humanity as a whole from the disaster that will arise if we do not do so. The Namibian government conscious of its responsibility as a global citizen will do everything in its power to contribute to those goals of the global commons.

The Neckardal Dam allowed Namibia to leverage and harvest water from the seasonal Fish river that runs during the rainy season and that would otherwise flow into the Orange river and the Atlantic ocean. The dam allows us to use the water for agriculture and food self-sufficiency. The //Karas Solar Energy Farm will allow the region to harvest the highest grade solar radiation in the world for energy production that generates local jobs and boosting the local economy through a sustainable natural power source for which we do not have to endebt our country by paying for energy imports in foreign currency. This definitely puts Namibia on a course for an economy based on harvesting renewable energy generation as the driving force for our future economic growth as what is good for the //Karas

region is good for all 14 regions of Namibia in partnership with The Regional Economic Distributors (REDs) of those regions.

3. Namibia is one of the most efficient locations for solar energy worldwide. Nevertheless, a lot of personal commitment was required to make this project come true. Which challenges did you have to face personally?

The success of any project requires the facilitation and mediation between the desires and wishes of investors and that of the stakeholders in the countries in which they want to invest. For the investor there is the understandable goal to make a profit and to be able to repatriate their profits. For the receiving countries the goal is that the venture adds value by creating jobs in a sustainable manner through technology transfer. I am really proud about the manner in which all Namibian stakeholders including Ministers from various Ministries, state owned agencies and the Namibian private sector accompanied and ticked off all the check boxes for the realization of this epic investment venture.

4. How important are the resulting jobs for the Namibian president and government?

The jobs envisaged by the SOLAR Namibia (Solnam) Industry Park in Walvis Bay and the The //Karas Solar Energy Farm will provide a breath of fresh air to the residents and especially the youth of the Erongo and //Karas regions. It opens a new era of professional careers in the renewable energy economy that could boost investments in parallel sectors like electrical cars, grid and off-grid solar roof homes in which Namibia could become a laboratory for the roll-out of such technology in Africa.

This German Solar Excellence Hub Investment venture sets into motion a paradigm shift. Henceforth, the world can look at Africa in a different way, namely as a source of innovation and inspiration in an important sector of the global economy. Professionals and youth interested in start-ups and easy market access in this unfolding global green economy can look at Namibia as an entry point with unique competitive advantages that no other country can offer.

This is the message that our President emphasizes since his inauguration. Namibians ought to have greater confidence in themselves and their government as the world community seems to have greater confidence in Namibia and the Namibian government than Namibians themselves. This project, that became possible because all Namibian stakeholders extended a welcoming hand to investors is a good example of what can be achieved when we work together in Harambee spirit that is the motto of President Hage G. Geingob.

5. Could you explain to us with which incentives the Namibian government would like to attract investors to Namibia?

The Namibian government promulgated last year the Public Private Partnership legislation to allow foreign private equity investors to team with Namibian Public Enterprises in public private partnerships combining private equity capital to share the burden with the taxpayer in realizing the infrastructure developments required to meet Namibia's Vision2030.

This provides for a legislative framework through which the investors and the Namibian private sector can jointly engage government to explore transparent legal ways in which the investment can be realized in the fastest way possible in mutual benefit.

The second important shift in the investment promotion architecture of Namibia is that the Authority tasked with Guiding and Promoting Investment in Namibia will now fall directly under the control and supervision of the President's Office. This One-Stop-Shop démarche where investors have only one interface partner in Namibia dealing with their queries will ensure that the Investment Authority under Presidential supervision will accompany an investor from the beginning to end to ensure the fastest implementation of their respective projects to the mutual benefit of all the parties. Investors that choose Namibia as their investment money deserve that high care from as they choose to invest

anywher else. I am glad that in this case we proved to the German investors that Namibia is a worthy investment destination for German and all international investors

Many thanks Mr. Ambassador