



MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

BY

HON. VEIKKO NEKUNDI, MINISTER, MP

ON THE

RESTORATION

OF THE

SOLAR WATER HEATING SYSTEM AT KATUTURA INTERMEDIATE HOSPITAL

14 October 2025

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

I rise today to update this Honourable House on the progress of critical infrastructure restoration works at the Katutura Intermediate Hospital, specifically regarding the restoration of the solar water heating system serving the Main Hospital building, Nurses' home, and Kitchen area.

Honourable Members,

The Ministry of Works and Transport, through the Namibia Engineering Cooperation and Pumps (Proprietary) Limited, commenced vital restoration works on the 12th of August this year. This contract, valued at N\$10,269,158.82, has a completion timeline of six months, with practical completion scheduled for the 13th of January next year.

The scope of this essential project encompasses comprehensive restoration and modernisation of the solar water heating infrastructure, including identification and replacement of reusable facilities, removal of damaged solar collectors and worn copper piping, modification of solar panels to accommodate updated technologies, and installation of heat pumps for critical areas, including the Kitchen and Nurses Home facilities.

Progress to Date

Honourable Speaker, I am pleased to report meaningful progress on this vital healthcare infrastructure project. The identification phase has revealed that while most panels have sustained damage from years of service and

environmental exposure, certain tanks remain serviceable. Some copper pipes have experienced natural deterioration, though the tanks continue to function adequately.

All compromised solar panels have been successfully removed from the Main building, Nurses' home, and Kitchen area, and have been properly transferred to Ministry of Health and Social Services officials for appropriate disposal. The modification works for the solar panels are currently advancing in phases, with completion targeted across the main building, the West wing, the main building East wing, the kitchen, and the Nurses' home facilities.

Regarding the installation of heat pumps for the kitchen and Nurses Home areas, I can confirm that the necessary heat pumps have been procured and are expected to be delivered this month. Similarly, the installation of cages and ducting to manage the cold air distribution is proceeding as planned, with completion anticipated by the end of this month.

Electrical and Mechanical

Honourable members,

I wish to inform this August House that the photovoltaic solar panels and controllers have been delivered to the site and are ready for installation. The piping works and circulation pump installation are scheduled to commence in the middle of this month, following the arrival of the heat pumps. Testing and commissioning of the entire system, equally remains on schedule.

Honourable Speaker,

While acknowledging the challenges inherent in infrastructure restoration of this magnitude, I am encouraged to report that the overall project progress stands at 20% completion. This progress, though measured, reflects the methodical and quality-focused approach being undertaken to ensure the longevity and reliability of this critical healthcare facility infrastructure.

The site instruction protocols remain a priority, with the site book maintained in triplicate to ensure transparency and accountability. All photovoltaic solar panels, heat pumps, and inverters have been successfully procured. The inverters and photovoltaic solar panels are now on site, with the first batch of heat pumps expected to arrive in the middle of this month.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

Our Ministry remains steadfast in its commitment to delivering this project with excellence. We are working diligently to ensure completion by the end of November, ahead of the contractual obligation. This proactive approach underscores our dedication to restoring essential services to our healthcare workers and the communities they serve.

Honourable Speaker,

The restoration of the solar water heating system at Katutura Intermediate Hospital represents more than infrastructure renewal, it symbolises our commitment to providing dignified working conditions for our healthcare

professionals and ensuring reliable services for our people. This investment in sustainable energy infrastructure aligns with our national development priorities and our commitment to environmental stewardship.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the contractor, Namibia Engineering Cooperation and Pumps (Proprietary) Limited, the technical teams from the Ministry of Works and Transport, and our colleagues at the Ministry of Health and Social Services for their collaborative efforts in advancing this important project.

Honourable Speaker,

The Ministry of Works and Transport will continue to provide regular updates to this Honourable House on the progress of this and other critical infrastructure projects under our purview.

I thank you, Honourable Speaker!