Katina Mulilo • Namibia pledged to support regional capi-
tal projects that would benefit all SADC citizens and enhance re-
gional integration.

President Hifikepunye Pohamba made the pledge at Katina Mulilo last Friday when he commissioned the 950 km Caprivi Link Inter-Connector Transmission Line hooked to huge AC and DC transformers. The event attended by the presi-
dents of Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Inter-Connector Transmis-
sion lines passes through Caprivi, Kavango and connects to the sub-
station at Gerus in the Otjozondjupa Region.

Presidents Robert Gabriel Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Rupiah Banda of Zambia, Lieutenant-

General Ian Seretse Khama of Botswana and SADC Executive Secretary Dr Agostoso Salumao were present.

The N$3.2 billion Caprivi Link Inter-Connector also comprises of a converter station and it has 300MW transfer ca-
pacity upgradeable to 600 MW and uses the latest HVDC light technology.

Namibian contractors were sub-contracted for several works ranging from pegging of the transmission line route, mechanical clearing of centre line, route clearing, installation of servitude gates and actual construction of the transmission line while villagers also got paid a combined N$8 million to relocate from its route.

Although most of the big ten-
ders were awarded to interna-
tional companies due to the ex-
pertise and technology used that is not available locally, Isak Katala the Mines and Energy Minister said the project enorm-
ously benefited Namibian contractors that participated.

During the event one of the numerous questions he asked Paulinus Shilamba was about the transmission power development initiatives.

It has also delivered eight loads of 34 tonnes each of onions to Oshikango while there are still more than 1000 tonnes of onions on site at the Ndonga Linena Project waiting to be transhipped to the markets.

The presence of my counter-
parts from Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe at this occasion bears testimony of firstly, the importance that SADC gov-
ernments attach to sustainable power generation as a catalyst for economic development and the commitment of Member States to regional integration and cooperation, he said.

The Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) has elevated the capa-
city of power generation and transmission power initiatives in the region have been ex-
tremely busy with significant power development initiatives aimed at alleviating imminent power shortages.

Some of these generation and transmission power initia-
tives are in the short, medium and long term, he elaborated.

Given the immensity of the task, our Governments should continue supporting the com-
mandable work done by our power utilities in addressing the power situation in the region, said Pohamba who is passionate about regional inte-
gration.

The Katima Mulilo bridge will be completed in 2012 at a cost of N$3.2 billion.

SADC citizens and enhance re-
tal projects that would benefit all

during to each of the abovementioned

He pledged to support regional capi-
tal projects by virtue of its regional strategic importance.

Pohamba noted that the op-
timal utilisation of the new transmission line, which con-
nects the Namibian and Zambian electricity networks will be enhanced by the comple-
tion of the envisaged ZIZABONA Inter-Connection which will link Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Namibia.

On the domestic front Namibia through Mines and Energy and NamPower as the imple-
menting agent has vigorously pursued several power generation and transmission projects.

These projects include the Hwange Power Station Reha-
bilitation Project that commenced in 2007 and the con-
struction of the N$375 million 22 MW Anxusus heavy-fuel diesel power plant at Walvis Bay due for completion in March 2011.

Others are the Ruacana four Unit Project involving the installation of the fourth 92 MW generation unit, which will increase capacity of the power system from the current 240 MW to 320 MW to be completed in 2012 at a cost of N$570 million.

The other is the Orange River Hydro Power Plants Project where the Kudu Gas-to-Power Project remains a crucial project where NamPower will team up with several investors.

Both projects are funded by SADC. Namibia is willing to supply resources, such as solar energy and water resources for the benefit of the people of the people of the development.

On his part President Rupiah Banda of Zambia said: This project is just one of the joint infrastructural projects that the two countries have embarked on.

The other project which aims at making it easier for our people to trade with each other is the Trans-Caprivi Highway and Bridge which runs over the Zambezi.

With these develop-
ments it is expected that our people will use them to trade with one another and better their lives, noted Banda.