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NEWS RELEASE

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**USTDA HELPS TO RESTORE ELECTRICITY BY
CATALYZING GREEN DEVELOPMENT IN NAMIBIA**

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA – Namibia’s economic growth since independence has begun to put a strain on its supply of electricity. To sustain that level of development, the United States and Namibia furthered their cooperation when the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) awarded a grant today to the Namibia Power Corporation (NamPower) that will allow it to support clean, sustainable energy sources.

The USTDA grant will fund a feasibility study that will support the rehabilitation of the Van Eck power plant in Namibia, a 120 megawatt coal-fired power plant, which was built in 1972 and is in dire need of repairs.

At the signing ceremony in Windhoek, U.S. Ambassador to Namibia Gail Dennise Mathieu said that the U.S. looks forward to working with Namibia to help it expand the country’s electricity generation capacity, both through the rehabilitation of existing facilities and the construction of new power plants.

“Hopefully, a plan for rehabilitation will lead to the use of modern, clean energy technologies that will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other harmful pollutants, while ensuring that Namibia has the electricity resources it needs for sustained economic growth,” said Ambassador Mathieu who conferred the \$400,000 grant at NamPower Center.

Signing the grant agreement on behalf of NamPower was its Managing Director Paulinus Shilamba who said that the feasibility study will consider various choices for rehabilitating the Van Eck power plant.

“I want to express my sincere appreciation for the financial assistance by USTDA and assure the U.S. Government that the money will be put to good use to the benefit not only Namibians but the global community in our endeavor to address global warming. The effects of global warming through emissions affect everybody and every effort to minimize and or eliminate emissions will contribute positively to climate change,” said Shilamba.

The opportunity to conduct the feasibility study will be competed on the Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website. A link to the FBO announcement will be posted to USTDA’s website at www.ustda.gov. Interested U.S. firms should submit proposals according to the instructions in the FBO announcement. NamPower will select the U.S. contractor that will complete the feasibility study.

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The [U.S. Trade and Development Agency](http://www.ustda.gov) advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds technical assistance, feasibility studies, training, orientation visits and business workshops to support development of modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's efforts create an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development.