



**Republic of Namibia**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**BY**

**HON. SOPHIA SHANINGWA, MP**

**MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE**

**INAUGURATION OF TOBIAS HAINYEKO CONSTITUENCY**

**OFFICE IN KHOMAS REGION**

**WEDNESDAY, 06<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

**WINDHOEK**

- **Director of Ceremonies, Mr. Clement Mafwila, Chief Regional Officer of Khomas Regional Council**
- **Hon. Laura-McLeod Katjirua, Governor of Khomas Region**
- **Hon. Members of Parliament present**
- **Hon. Rachel Jacob, Regional Councillor of John Pandeni Constituency and the Chairperson of the Khomas Regional Council**
- **Your Worship Councillor Muesebe Kazapua, Mayor of the City of Windhoek**
- **Honourable Christopher Likuwa, Regional Councillor of Tobias Hainyeko Constituency**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors Present**
- **Leaders and Members the Tobias Hainyeko Constituency Development Committee**
- **Residents of Tobias Hainyeko Constituency**
- **Invited guests**
- **Members of the media**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

**It is my distinguished honour to officiate at this important occasion, marking the inauguration of the renovated and upgraded Tobias Hainyeko Constituency Office.**

**Director of proceedings**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**Having been the Regional Governor of Khomas Region before going to Omusati Region and my appointment as Minister of Urban and Rural Development, I am fully aware of the operations and the challenges facing the Khomas Regional Council, including the need for adequate office space.**

**I remember very well that by the time I left the Khomas Regional Council, we had either purchased or constructed and inaugurated constituency offices of Windhoek Rural, Khomasdal, Katutura East, John Pandeni, Windhoek East, Windhoek West, Samora Machel, Tobias Hainyeko, and Moses //Garoëb Constituency Office.**

**I am informed that despite persistent efforts, you are still not able to proceed with the construction of Katutura Central due to a protracted dispute over the land.**

**We are here today to witness the inauguration of a better equipped, revamped and upgraded office for the Tobias Hainyeko Constituency. The purpose of our investment in the upgrade of the office is to enable the Council and people who are entrusted to run it to have a more conducive environment for them to better serve the community.**

**I wish to recognise the following good deeds and commendable efforts by the Khomas Region Council:**

- The Region now has nine (9) fully operational Constituency Offices out a total of 10 constituencies in the Region;**
- I have been informed that beside acquiring or constructing appropriate offices, you are also paying due attention to good governance and management practices and have introduced internal control mechanisms and systems in line with the general Good Governance Practices;**

- **I was also informed that the Regional Council has improved on staffing levels and constituency offices like this one with the aim of boosting operational efficiency and effective service delivery.**

**I wish to commend the Governor, the Chairperson and all the councilors as well as the staff of the Regional Council for their dedication to service and to urge you to rededicate yourselves to even work harder.**

**Director of Ceremonies**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**The presence and increase in the capacity of a public office closer to the people such as this one is very important for a number of reasons:**

- **Firstly, the office is now, in comparison to time when it was constructed in the early 1990s, serving a large community as more people moved and are now living in the Constituency;**
- **Secondly and in line with one policy of decentralization and bringing service closer to the people, having a well-**

**staffed and equipped office will provide a relief to the community from having to travel long distances to public offices in town to get the public services that they need. It is expected that such services will now be brought and provided at the Constituency Office as there is adequate office space.**

**Director of ceremonies**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**The Bible says and I quote: “To who much is given, much more is expected” (Luke 12: 48). Back at home, our President says “Transparency and Accountability equals Trust”. Just yesterday, the President when addressing Cabinet said that the year 2018 will be the year of “reckoning”.**

**These quotes and pronunciations are all driving home one message, namely that as people entrusted in positions of authority and public service and now also having been given a good office space to operate from, you and all of us are**

**expected to devote our time and energy to serving the electorate and community in general, and further that we will be held to account for our actions, individually and collectively.**

**The revamping of this Constituency Office has cost tax payers money, over N\$2,7 million, and it is expected of the Council leadership and staff to show that, in return for such investment, there is value for money through improved service delivery**

**Director of proceedings**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

**As you are aware, I have been elected to the position of Secretary General of our Mighty SWAPO Party, which position I will be serving on a full time basis. I am still awaiting my matching orders. As such, let me take this opportunity to thank you all in advance for the co-operation and support that you have been giving me during my tenure as the Minister responsible for Urban and Rural Development. From now forward rest assured that I shall closely monitor the implementation of SWAPO Party Manifesto and SWAPO Party**

**Programmes. You who are working for government, you are once reminded that you are under the SWAPO Party led government, hence reasons for which citizens have voted for us, delivery of services shall be closely monitored by Secretary General. Therefore we are urged to see to it that resources entrusted to us towards service delivery shall be optimally utilized for their intended purposes.**

**We are a team and I shall expect all of you to bring your input; and we must pull together in the same direction to serve the Namibian people.**

**I wish each and every one of you and your families a blessed, peaceful, restful festive season. Take very good care of yourselves and your beloved ones during these holidays.**

**With these remarks, it is now my pleasure to declare the revamped Office of the Tobias Hainyeko Constituency officially opened.**

**Thank you for your kind attention.**