



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT BY

HONOURABLE DR PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP

MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

OFFICIAL OPENING OF A THE FIRE STATION

**CONSTRUCTION OF SERVICES IN BENGUELA
EXTENSION3**

AND

(DIAZ SCHOOL STREET)

FRIDAY, 02 MARCH 2018

LUDERITZ

Director of Ceremonies;
Honourable Jan Scholtz, Chairperson of /Karas Regional Council and Our hosting Regional Councillor of !NamiꞑNûs Constituency;
Your Worship Hilaria Mukapuli, Mayor of Luderitz Town and other Mayors from various towns present;
All Regional and Local Authorities Councillors present;
Mr Otto Shipanga, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Luderitz Town Council;
Captains of industries
Volunteers of the Luderitz Fire Brigade
Distinguished invited Guests;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is indeed a great pleasure and honour for me to be here today as the newly appointed Minister of Urban and Rural Development, to deliver the keynote address at this optimistic ceremony of the official opening of the Luderitz Fire Station, as well as to witness the successful completion of Construction of Service in Benguela Extension 3 and the upgrading of 1km Road in Luderitz (Diaz School Road)

We are here to witness the inauguration of these major developmental projects as implemented by Luderitz Town Council. The Government of the Republic of Namibia continues to invest in infrastructure development aimed at positively improving the living standards of the Namibian people. Indeed this is one of the pillars underscored in the Harambee Prosperity Plan. In this regard, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development has funded these three projects as follows:

- 1. Luderitz Fire Station**
- 2. Construction of Service in Benguela Extension 3**
- 3. Upgrading of 1km Road in Luderitz (Dia School Road)**

**Director of Ceremonies;
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is also worth mentioning that the implementation of these Projects was not easy and it has come with challenges but due to hard work and dedication, the Council have overcome these challenges. Hence we are here today as proud citizens of Luderitz in the !NamiꞑNûs Constituency of the /Karas Region to appreciate the positive impact of development.

At this juncture, I would like to state that the Namibian government is committed to develop Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). SMEs are the backbone of every country's economy because it is through this sector that our upcoming businessmen and women practice their business acumens and create wealth to enable them to meet their daily needs. I will, therefore, fail in my duty if I do not acknowledge the job well done by the joint venture of Rio Engineering and Okakuverua Building Blocks for successfully completing phase 1 of the upgrading of a 1kilometer Road (Diaz school Street) for a budget amount of N\$7 799 200.30

Let me also equally thank Octagon Construction for the professional work done in the servicing of 55 erven, inclusive of roads in Benguela Extension 3 which was done at a total cost of N\$ 6 469 065.16, despite the challenges due to topographic features of the town.

Lastly, I would like to thank Gecko-Fifty Eight Investment for constructing a modern Fire Station at a total cost of N\$ 5 611 702.86. You will all agree with me that the fire brigade is of utmost importance to the community as it protects the residents and their properties from the fire, accidents and other calamities. I am therefore pleased that it is strategically located next to the masses in the informal settlement because most of the time they tend to be victims as they are not always within the firehouse proximity. However, the sustainability of this Fire Station and the existence of an effective and efficient fire and emergency response services would require a pro-active approach, whereby the Town Council and communities must coordinate and cooperate. In this regard, I would therefore like to encourage the community of Luderitz Town to make full use of the Emergency Services made available to them by the Council, by reporting emergencies on time, so that they can also get timely response.

Having recognised that, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development has established the Local Economy Development Agency through which we have assisted all our local authorities countrywide to enhance their economies in their various localities with the aim of growing our economy by ensuring that Projects of these nature employ our local people to enhance their livelihood.

For all of us who are here present today, I have no doubt to testify that Luderitz has made significant progress towards development, however I want to urge you all to safeguard these project through constant maintenances to ensure sustainability and value or money, as these projects are a results of tax payers money. I therefore commend the Luderitz Town Council for a job well done.

Taking into consideration of the current economic situation, do not despair as there are still other alternatives to fast track development and one initiative can be through Public Private Partnership / Joint Venture as an economic tool that we can use in fighting unemployment, poverty and improving the living standards of our people in our country as part of the implementation of our Harambee Prosperity Plan.

**Director of Ceremonies;
Ladies and gentlemen;**

Local authorities are entrusted with the wellbeing of residents in their respective areas, and as such, Councils including Luderitz are obliged to put in place systems to respond to emergencies. Although it is a gradual process, Luderitz Town Council has moved into the right direction, where a systematic approach in constructing fire stations was established. Therefore, I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate Luderitz Town Council for planning, constructing and operationalising this vital infrastructure.

As I officially inaugurate these infrastructure, I would like to call upon all of us to take proper care of these infrastructure for the use of the current and future generations. Keep them clean and tidy at all times.

As I am coming toward the end of my speech, I actually not concluding because this is the beginning of my tenure as Minister of Urban and Rural Development, and I call upon your unwavering support to take Urban and Rural Development to greater heights by improving the livelihoods of our people through effective and efficient regional and local governance systems.

With these remarks, it is now my honour and privilege to invite this gathering to join me in officially inaugurating the three capital projects.

I thank you!