



**Republic of Namibia**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HONOURABLE SOPHIA SHANINGWA, MP**

**MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE**

**GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF RECEPTION AREA AT ONAWA  
TOWNSHIP**

**MONDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2017**

**ONAWA, OSHAKATI**

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Hon. Clemens Kashuupulwa, Governor of Oshana Region;**
- **Your Worship, Angelus Iiyambo, Mayor of Oshakati town;**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors present;**
- **Tatekulu Job Sheehama, the Headman of Onawa Village;**
- **Senior Government Officials present;**
- **Captain of the industries;**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**It is indeed a great pleasure to be here this morning to officiate at this joyous occasion, the ground-breaking ceremony of the establishment of the reception area here at Onawa Township in Oshakati. We are gathered here with a sense of pride and happiness, as we officially commission the establishment of this reception area.**

**I therefore wish to express my utmost appreciation to the Town Council of Oshakati for facilitating the whole process of establishing this Reception Area where basic services would be constructed in phases.**

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

**I am informed that the Onawa Township consists of 3000 erven, and Council has budgeted 7 million to commence with construction of services for very low income earners. Beneficiaries would therefore be allowed to pay a very**

**minimal fee for services rendered, like to pay water usage, and the removal of wastes. The area is already planned, and the Consulting Engineer responsible to design the infrastructural services and the supervision of the construction of work would be appointed before the end of this month.**

**The establishment of a Reception Area township particularly at this stage shall involve many activities. These includes the construction of water, sanitation networks, surveying of plots, streets, installation of electricity facilities, the actual construction of build together houses and indeed construction of roads, or any other structure as may be deemed to be fit as planned.**

**Director of Ceremonies;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**At this juncture, I would like to express my profound gratitude to the community of Onawa village for according their utmost cooperation to Government of Republic of Namibia during the period of negotiations for compensation. I was informed that Onawa village consists of 97 homesteads. As I speak, eighty nine (89) homesteads have been compensated and only eight (8) are yet to be compensated. Council should therefore continue to engage the affected households to conclude the compensation process, in order to fast-track development.**

**I would also like to urge all the contractors and Consulting Engineers to see to it that the Government of the Republic of Namibia is aiming for quality and permanent infrastructures. Besides, contractors should ensure that local employment is created in order to develop skills amongst our people. This should be done under the supervision of Local Authorities as well and it is Councils' obligation to ensure that local people are benefiting from local projects such as these.**

**I am assured that this projects that would start early next year for servicing this area will create about 300 temporally jobs for local people. This deserves a round of applause as it shows that our Government want to ensure that unemployment in Namibia is minimised by all means.**

**Apart from the local people who ought to benefits from local projects, local authorities have also a vested responsibility to ensure that local SMEs have benefited from local capital projects as well.**

**I am sure that our efforts toward socio-economic emancipation will soon be realised once these collective responsibilities are taken seriously by all stakeholders.**

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

**Allow me once more again to extend my enormous appreciation to Oshakati Town Council for moving a step ahead by establishing a Reception Area, and the envisaged commencing of the servicing of three thousand erven of which the first phase tackles about four hundred**

**erven. I therefore call upon other local authorities to emulate this good example and create reception centres while they are busy servicing land for the people.**

**On behalf of Government, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development would like to assure its commitment, to progressively work together with you in ensuring that the much needed development to our people is delivered.**

**In conclusion, my appreciation goes to all stakeholders for dedicating your valued time to be here today at this prestigious occasion. Lastly, I hereby declare the construction and the establishment of reception area officially commenced.**

**I thank you.**