



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
STATEMENT
OF
HON. DR. PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP,
AT THE EIGHTH FESTIVAL OF THE /HAI-/KHAUA
TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY IN BERSEBA, KARAS
REGION
DELIVERED BY
MR. PHILIP TJERIJE
SPECIAL ADVISOR TO THE MINISTER ON
TRADITIONAL MATTERS
27 April 2019

I feel honoured for the kind invitation extended to me to attend the 8th Cultural Festival of the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority here at Berseba in the //Kharas Region. Similarly, it is a great honour for me to have been accorded the opportunity to deliver a statement at this auspicious occasion.

I commend the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority's leadership for your consistent efforts of organizing your Cultural Festival annually since your official recognition in 2011. This bears testimony to your determination and commitment to promote and celebrate your cultural heritage. Similarly, the Ministry of urban and rural Development applauds your leadership for your persistent endeavors of developing the administrative capacity of your traditional authority and of promoting peace unity and social cohesion within your traditional community for the past eight years.

Your Traditional Authority has clearly demonstrated your determination to improve the administrative capacity of your Traditional Authority by taking the initiative to acquire a temporary office and thus ensured a visibly fully functional Traditional Authority

that is able to deliver effective and efficient services to your traditional community in your area. Your Traditional Authority has showed that through resourcefulness, ingenuity and determination to succeed progress is possible in spite of limited resources. It is worth noting that no official vehicle was allocated to the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority as the one-off allocation of vehicles to the Traditional Authorities was allocated in 2009 before this authority was recognized in 2011. It was publicly announced last year during the inauguration of the temporary office of the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority that a fundraising campaign was launched for the purchasing of a vehicle for the authority by the /Hai-/Khaua community members themselves. What a practical demonstration of self-reliance by a community! Where there is a will, there is a way!

I am delighted to witness that this cultural festival is being celebrated under the banner of a united /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority. It is most appropriate that you celebrate your common cultural heritage together as a united community whose life and soul

are so intertwined through kinship and shared history.

Cultural festivals such as this one we celebrate today, serve as important platforms for transmission of cultural values norms and indigenous skill and knowledge. Through the mediums of songs, dramas, dances and other cultural and artistic expressions, we teach each other, learn from each other and internalize the enduring values norms, and traditional practices of our culture. Similarly through display of cultural artefacts, handicrafts and other traditionally produced products we can transfer skills and the knowledge of producing these items. This is important given, the challenges of globalization and advanced technology.

As we enjoy and appreciate the cultural activities being performed here in the various forms, let us use what we learn here today for reflection on the state of our social and moral values today.

And while we celebrate the forms of cultural expressions that are unique to this region of our Republic, let us celebrate in a manner that is

inclusive and that is in the context of nation building, of One Namibia One Nation! Let us not lose focus that whereas culture was used by our erstwhile oppressors as a ploy to separate Namibians from one another, we should use our cultural diversity for bridge-building, to bring us closer together as one nation. Unity in diversity; that is what we should strive for!

In conclusion allow me to congratulate the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority on your 8th anniversary of recognition of the united /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority and your community for your resolve and determination to walk the path of unity and reconciliation. I urge you to continue to walk the path of unity; peace and inclusiveness. Strive to bring into the fold those members of your community who might feel excluded from the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority I wish you all a fruitful, and educational cultural festival

I thank you!