



Republic of Namibia

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY
HON. DEREK KLAZEN
DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF FUNDS RAISED THROUGH THE
BUY A BRICK INITIATIVE
TO THE SHACK DWELLERS FEDERATION OF NAMIBIA**

SWAKOPMUND, 15 JUNE 2018

Director of proceedings Mr Ronny Einbeck
Governor of the Erongo Region, Cleophas Mutjavikua
Mr Vetumbuavi Mungunda – Chief Executive of Standard
Bank and your Executive Team;
The entire delegation of the Shack Dwellers Federation
of Namibia
Distinguished Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen;
**Members of the Media; **

From the onset I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the invitation extended to me once again to officiate at this important event which marks the official handover of the funds raised during the third leg of the Buy-a-Brick initiative.

Standard Bank has heeded the call for decent housing for all Namibians through their flagship initiative and have become a lighthouse beaming with hope while reminding us and restoring our faith that alleviating the housing shortage is possible.

The provision of housing in our country cannot be left to Government alone as Government will not be in a position to raise and provide all the resources that are required for such programmes despite all our noble intentions. To successfully address this growing demand of adequate housing, we need efforts such as these displayed by the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia, along with partnerships involving government, the private sector and the NGO community.

We therefore all have a collective responsibility to building a country we want to see in the future.

And by doing something personal and reaching out to our less fortunate communities who live in shacks in our country, we can make a difference in their lives.

Currently Namibia is facing a housing backlog of 100 000 and this number is growing by 3 700 every year. It is for this reason that I fully support the Buy-a-Brick fundraising initiative which is geared towards addressing the country's acute housing challenge through providing funding to the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia to building decent brick houses for its members countrywide.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and gentlemen,

I want to further emphasise that plastic shelters and corrugated iron shacks are not desirable in our country. We cannot have people living like that, risking their lives and personal belongings to fires or rain while at the same time subjecting their dignities to oppression. Our resolve as Namibians should therefore be that we should not construct more shacks, but build proper houses and move away from shacks.

Accordingly, I advise everyone who is living in shacks to join the Shack Dwellers Federation which allows you to acquire a plot and become a proud decent home owner.

I am very pleased to note that Standard Bank's CSI community initiative is also well aligned to Government's Mass Housing Programme as well as the land and housing

provision under the social progression pillar of the Harambee Prosperity Plan as set forward by our President, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob.

Every Namibian has the right to live in a decent dwelling and as a Ministry this is important to ensure that corporates come up with projects that seek to help address the housing shortage challenge in our country.

Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and gentlemen, I am reliably informed that since its inception in 2015, the Buy-a-Brick Initiative has collectively raised a commendable N\$1.4 million which has realised the construction of 44 new brick houses for the less privileged residents of the Federation in Rehoboth.

Last year, the Bank handed over a notable amount of N\$2-million to the Federation which is being used to build homes in Windhoek's Havana informal settlement, Berseba and the homes which were recently officially handed over in Otjinene on 18 May.

The Buy-a-Brick initiative is making good headway in alleviating the housing shortage in the country, for their efforts in bringing this initiative to life Standard Bank deserves a big round of applause.

I would therefore also like to thank MTC, Bidvest and Salt Refinery for partnering with Standard Bank on this initiative. I would also be remiss if I also didn't thank every individual who also gave their contributions from their personal capacity.

At the same time, I would also like to urge other corporate entities and institutions from the private sector to emulate this shining example as the current housing challenge is a collective responsibility and cannot be left to Government alone.

As Namibians we need more smart partnerships like these to alleviate poverty, address the housing shortage and promote employment in order for our nation to reach economic prosperity.

Our Namibian Government will continue providing support to the families to acquire shelter, access to affordable land and benefits from infrastructural development especially in the informal settlements.

We shall, therefore, continue to bring economic and infrastructural development to our disadvantaged communities through programmes such as the Decentralised

Built-Together-Programme, Urban/Rural Housing Loans Programme and other informal settlement programmes. Homes give families a secure place to live and a social position in society. For these reasons, it is crucial that we continue to support efforts aimed at providing housing to our people.

It is through community projects or initiatives like these that some form of relief is brought to the daily pressures facing our rural urban and poor.

In conclusion, on behalf of our President Dr Hage Geingob, his Cabinet and the populous of the land of the brave, I wholeheartedly thank Mr Mungunda, Chief Executive of Standard Bank and his team, for leading this noble initiative and I call upon all the Namibian people who feel that we owe a positive change to our country and her people to make their contribution too.

With these few remarks, I once more congratulate Standard Bank on the success of their third leg of the Buy-a-Brick initiative and urge them to keep up the remarkable work

I thank you.