



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**STATEMENT OF HON. DR. PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP
MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

ON OCCASION OF

**THE INAUGURATION OF THE TEMPORARY OFFICE OF THE /HAI-/KHAUA
TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY AT BERSEBA, //KHARAS REGION.**

SATURDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2018

Director of Proceedings,

Hon. Lucia Basson, Governor of the //Kharas Region

Hon. Regional and Local Authorities Councilors,

Hon. Gaob Immanuel #Nu-Axa /Gaseb, Deputy Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders and Chief of !Oe-#Gan Traditional Authority

Esteemed Captain Johannes Isaack , Chief of the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority,

Esteemed Deputy Captain of the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority and all Senior and Traditional Councilors of the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority

Esteemed Captain Seth Kooitjie, Chairperson of the Nama Traditional Leaders Association and Chief of the Topnaars Traditional Authority.

Esteemed Chiefs, Senior and Traditional Councilors of other Traditional Authorities here present,

All Senior and other Government Officials present

All Religious Leaders present

Respected community members of the Berseba communal area and those from beyond.

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Our Law Enforcement Agencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Director of ceremonies,

Esteemed Captain Isaack and Deputy Captain Goliath,

I thank you whole-heartedly for your kind invitation extended to me to be part of the inauguration ceremonies of the temporary office for the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority today, the 20th of October 2018 here at Berseba, in the /Kharas Region. Similarly, I feel greatly honoured to officially entrust this state asset, the Office building, into your care, esteemed Captain Isaack, Deputy captain Goliath and your traditional leadership.

Director of Ceremonies,

The Government of the Republic of Namibia is fully committed to providing resources and infrastructure to the officially designated and recognized Traditional Authorities in our country. This, the Government does, in recognizing the critical and vital role which Chiefs and Traditional Authorities play in providing leadership and delivering services to our communities at grassroot level in the communal areas. In this context, our Government has provided the recognized Chiefs and their Traditional Authorities with the means of transport, infrastructure such as the Office-building for the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority whose inauguration we witness today. In addition, the Government provides for allowances for Chiefs, Councilors, Secretary and Drivers. The Government also makes contribution to the Traditional Authorities' Community Trust Funds.

The Government provides the aforementioned means and others to the Traditional Authorities, in order to assist in building the administrative capacity of the Chiefs and their Traditional Authorities in order to enable

them to deliver effective and efficient services to their communities in the areas in which they are recognized by law as the areas over which they have their Jurisdiction. The recognition of Chiefs and Traditional Authorities is officially done to ensure that Traditional Authorities operate within the parameters of the law, that they are accountable and are thus to be entrusted with public or national assets of the country including the administration of communal land and infrastructure such as the Office-building which we inaugurate today. As such recognized Chiefs and Traditional Leaders are obliged to administer national resources and assets for the benefit of their communities and in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the laws of our country including the laws providing for the Traditional Authorities' governance. These laws include: The Traditional Authorities Act No.25 of 2000, the Council of Traditional Leaders Act No.13 of 1997 as amended in Act No 31 of 2000, the Communal Land Reform Act No.5 of 2002 and the Community Courts Act No. 10 of 2003. These Acts empower the Traditional Leaders to perform their duties and functions such as to administer and execute their customary law, to hear and resolve disputes among their community members , to raise funds on behalf of their traditional communities for their Community Trust Funds and to administer communal land.

Director of Ceremonies,

The Office-building whose inauguration we witness today is being entrusted into your capable and responsible hands, esteemed Captain Isaack, Deputy Captain Goliath and your Councilors for the purpose of services delivery to all the members of your community from this office.

You have the obligation as the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority recognized over your community in the Berseba communal area to serve your community in a fair, just and inclusive manner. Receive this office building, this valuable state asset, and use it for the intended purpose. Utilize it to enhance your administrative capacity as to enable your traditional Authority to provide effective leadership to your community and to deliver improved, efficient and effective service to all our citizens in your area.

I urge you all, esteemed traditional leaders to take full responsibility for the maintenance, cleanliness, care and security of this office building. Guard against vandalism of the building.

My appeal to the community which will be served from this Office-building is as follows: Please understand that there are rules, procedures and regulations governing office administration. When accessing services from these offices do so in a responsible and orderly manner. Follow the rules and procedures laid down. And to all who will serve the public from this Office – serve your fellow citizens in a courteous manner, with integrity, respect and honesty.

Director of Ceremonies,

I appeal to you , the respected community of Berseba to be the ears and the eyes of your Traditional Leadership in guarding this Office-building and its facilities. Make sure, at all times that this national property, your property, is taken proper care of; that it is kept clean at all times; that it is maintained properly and that there is proper security around it at all times. Utilize this Office-Building and its facilities in such a manner that future generations would also continue utilizing it for service delivery!

Finally I understand that the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority has been operating from Captain Isaack's house since its inception up to now. I applaud captain Isaack and all those who made similar sacrifices to ensure the operation and functioning of your traditional Authority.

It is now my singular honour to declare this temporary Office-Building of the /Hai-/Khaua Traditional Authority as officially opened.

I THANK YOU