



**Republic of Namibia**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**BY HONOURABLE DR. PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP**

**MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**IN NAMIBIA ON THE OCCASION OF OFFICIAL**

**OPENING OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGIC**

**PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR UNITED CITIES OF**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCLGA) IN AFRICA**

**7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018**

**SWAKOPMUND, NAMIBIA**

**Director of Ceremonies**

**Hon. Cleophas Mutjavikua, Governor of Erongo Region.**

**Your Worship, Hon. Pauline Nashilundo, Mayor of Swakopmund**

**Hon. Katrina Shimbulu, ALAN President**

**Visiting Presidents of Various Associations and Mayors Present**

**Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, CLGA Secretary General,**

**Dear participants**

**Good morning,**

**I am delighted to welcome you all to Namibia on the occasion of the Regional Strategic Planning Workshop for United Cities of Local Governments (UCLGA) in Africa. It is often said “*Failing to Plan is Planning to Fail*” this workshop is a testimony that the United Cities of Local Governments in Africa has taken the bold step not to fall in the category of those who plan to fail by failing to plan.**

**It is my understanding that the UCLGA is desirous to undertake a process that would culminate in informing United Cities of Local Governments in Africa on the state of decentralization in the region, the urgencies to be addressed on the decentralization agenda and to deliberate on priority areas for action required in order that local authorities become more and more reliable partners for the national governments, the regional economic communities, the development partners and other stakeholders with regards to definition, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the development and cooperation agendas in the Southern Africa Region.**

**Local government associations all over the world are finding themselves in different stages of development and face different issues and challenges. Some have clearly described their medium and long term strategic goals and what their associations stand for. Others are just developing on a day to day basis without a clear vision of their future and without a strategic plan.**

**It is therefore imperative to collectively work towards a collective vision for the future of UCLG Africa taking into consideration the needs and expectations of members and explore the necessary approaches and solutions for the challenges facing local authorities and their associations. In this vein it would also be important to keep into consideration international instruments and agreement like the Sustainable Development Goals: Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda as well as the AU Agenda 2063.**

**I am confident that that the strategic planning process will put the UCLG Africa in a stronger position to translate its purpose into practice. I therefore trust that the strategic planning workshop is a key that will lead to the articulation of a shared vision, key priorities and action steps that would enable the UCLGA to deliver on its mandate not only in Africa but also in the world.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Dear Participants,**

**Today marks the first day of the two (2) days Regional Strategic Planning Workshop for United Cities of Local Governments (UCLGA) in Africa, organized by ALAN. The main objective of this strategic planning process is to provide clarity about where UCLGA**

**is currently, to determine the status of the decentralization process in the region and the future of the association, in order to co-create the political and the operational framework or the organization.**

**This implies that through this process UCLGA will have to answer the key questions: What do we want to accomplish by when, and what qualities, skills and resources will be needed to achieve the envisaged goals?**

**Dear Participants,**

**As you engage in this process, I urge you remain conscious that strategic planning is not an end in itself but merely a tool that can help you to improve your performance and impact as an association. It is my hope that this planning process will be an opportunity that allows a safe space for healthy self –criticism and commitment building since it will require all stakeholders and partners in UCLG Africa to be actively engaged.**

**In conclusion, it is my understanding that strategic planning is not a one-time exercise or cast in stone product but a dynamic and flexible process because, I have come to learn over the years that change is the only stable factor in life. I wish you all fruitful and candid engagements, and also hope that you will share the outcomes of your deliberations with the relevant line ministries in each of our countries.**

**I now have the singular honour to declare the Regional Strategic Planning Workshop for United Cities of Local Governments in Africa officially opened.**

**I thank you.**