



Republic of Namibia

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY HONOURABLE DR. PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP

MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

OF NAMIBIA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 1ST REHOBOTH TOWN

COUNCIL ANNUAL STAKEHOLDERS' CONFERENCE

2 AUGUST 2018

THE HERMANUS VAN WYK HALL, REHOBOTH

Hon. Derek Klazen, Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development;

Hon. Esme Isaacks, Governor of the Hardap Region;

Hon. Edward Wambo, Chairperson of the Hardap Regional Council and all Regional Councillors present;

Mrs Natalia Gaogoses, The Minister's Representative at Rehoboth Town Council

Rehoboth Town Council Management team and the entire staff

All invited Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address you at this auspicious event under the theme "For the Good of All – Pro Bono Omnium". I was informed that the main aim of this Conference is to establish and maintain dialogue between the Rehoboth Town Council and all its Stakeholders. The Conference further aims at creating a platform for all relevant Stakeholders to engage and deliberate on matters relating to Council affairs and the socio-economic upliftment of its residents.

Rehoboth is the second largest town in the Hardap Region with an estimated population of 46 000 residents and is known for the natural hot-springs, which in the past was a major tourist attraction. I hope I will have an opportunity today to pass by the Reho-Spa as part of our planned tour of Rehoboth Town. In order for the Rehoboth Town Council to serve the almost 46 000

residents of its town, the full and continuous support of all its Stakeholders are required. The importance of this event can therefore not be over-emphasized as this can be a mammoth task without the necessary support of all involved.

Director of Ceremonies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are all aware of the current challenges faced by the Rehoboth Town Council, in fact, most Local Authorities in Namibia are faced with similar challenges, but I remain adamant that through our combined efforts and the support of all stakeholders a new era is about to evolve. An era where prompt and excellent service delivery is the order of the day and where the needs of the community are at the forefront of the Council's socio-economic development agenda. This initiative of the Rehoboth Town Council is therefore commendable and it aligns with the Mission Statement of my Ministry, being: "To provide requisite policy, legal, regulatory and financial support for effective regional and local governance development as well as upliftment of the wellbeing of urban and rural communities.", and what better way to spearhead this Mission at local level than to bring all Stakeholders together for "The Good of All."

The town has a great potentiality to grow in various economic sectors like tourism and small scale animal husbandry among others. Further, Rehoboth residents are well-known for their excellence in construction skills Construction industry is among

the catalysts of economic development in Namibia. It makes a significant contribution to infrastructure development, one of the pillars of the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

The theme of today's Conference reminds me of the State of the Nation Address made by our President, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob in April 2015, whereby he introduced the image of the "All-Inclusive Namibian House" to the nation. In his address he compared the process of nation building to the process of building a house, in fact a Namibian House, "in which all its residents have a sense of shared identity and in which no Namibian will be left out."

We should, however, keep in mind that such a "house" can never be built in one day and by one person. In the case of the Rehoboth Town Council "House", this is especially true when you want to build a house with a solid and strong foundation. This "house" is a work in progress that requires a foundation of engagement – with all Stakeholders. We therefore commence with the foundation of this symbolic house today by engaging with each other for the "Good of All".

I would therefore urge all the Stakeholders present here today to actively participate and engage with each other so that at the end of this day, we can all be proud to say "We were part of building this House that will drive the socio-economic transformation of this beautiful town of Rehoboth and all its residents".

In conclusion, I would like to comment the Town Management Team under the leadership of the Minister's Representative for this

initiative and pledge my Ministry's support to the implementation of the outcomes of this stakeholder's engagement platform.

I thank you.