



Republic of Namibia

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

HON. DR. PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP

MINISTER

MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**COURTESY VISIT TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF 100
AFFORDABLE HOUSES BY AND FOR THE SHACK DWELLERS
FEDERATION OF NAMIBIA**

EXTENSION 5, KUISEBMUND, WALVIS BAY

NORTH TUTALENI

SATURDAY, 10 MARCH 2018 @ 14:30

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Madame, Monica Geingos, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia**
- **Hon. Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Members of Parliament present;**
- **Hon. Cleophas Mutjavikua, Governor of Erongo Region;**
- **His Worship Alderman Cllr. Immanuel Wilfred, Mayor of Walvis Bay Municipality;**
- **Hon. Councillor Hafeni Ndemula, Chairperson of the Erongo Regional Council;**
- **Hon. Regional and Local Authority Councillors;**
- **Mr. Muronga Haingura, Chief Executive Officer of Walvis Bay Municipality;**
- **Commissioner A. Nelumbu, Regional Commander of the Namibian Police – Erongo Region;**
- **Comrade Daniel Muhuura, SWAPO Party Regional Coordinator for Erongo Region;**
- **Senior Government Officials;**
- **Officials from Central, Regional and Local Government Institutions;**
- **Ms. Johanna Nembungu, Erongo Regional Facilitator of Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia;**

- **Esteemed Representatives of Ohorongo Cement, First National Bank, Standard Bank and the Pupkewitz Foundation;**
- **Distinguished invited guests;**
- **Members of the business fraternity, Captain of Industries;**
- **The leadership, Members and staff members of the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia and the Namibia Housing Action Group;**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

On the 11th November 2017 the Minister of Ministry of Urban and Rural Development had the honour to officiate at this very same site on the occasion of the ground breaking Ceremony, marking the official commencement of the construction of the 100 houses by and for the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia and the Namibia Housing Action Group.

I am delighted to stand here after four months and to witness the tremendous progress on this project, in realisation of the provision of descent affordable housing and improved sanitation to our people.

Housing has gained prominence as one of the key national development priorities and an important vehicle for addressing poverty and inequality as well as for bringing about social harmony, economic advancement and ensuring political stability.

This is why as a nation we have made the provision of and access to decent housing as one of the key development priorities as encapsulated in our Vision 2030, National Development Plans and the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

Director of proceedings

Ladies and gentlemen

It is my conviction that the housing challenge is not insurmountable if we, Government, private and the community pull our resources and efforts together and develop inclusive, equitable and innovative strategies, such as this initiative.

Our presence here today is a re-affirmation of our shared recognition and resolve, collectively as a nation and as individual caring citizens, that all citizens of this Republic have a right to decent and affordable housing, improved sanitation and shelter.

We are here to witness the progress on the construction is 100 affordable houses by the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia for its members that the Ministry commissioned last year in November 2017 to kick-start this amazing project.

Ladies and gentlemen

The land where we are standing right now and on which the Shack Dwellers' Federation of Namibia is constructing the 100 was part of the land that has been serviced under the Government's Massive Urban Land Servicing Project.

The 100 erven have been made available to the Federation by the Walvis Bay Municipality with the consent of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. I once again wish to thank the leadership of the Walvis Bay for availing the land to the Federation for this noble cause.

Director of proceedings

Ladies and gentlemen

The Government, through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development and local authorities such as the Walvis Bay Municipality, believe in and will continue to support the work of community based organisations such as the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia who have demonstrated their commitment and ability to contribute to the national drive towards providing affordable housing and proper sanitation to our people especially those in the ultra-low and low income categories. The Shack Dwellers Federation's

solution to housing is unique and worth supporting in that it is a case of the community itself taking action to address its own developmental needs. This is a clear testimony of sustainable and people-centred development, and I hereby pledge our continued support.

As a demonstration our trust in the work of the Federation, the Government, through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, has been providing financial support to boost the housing provision efforts of the Federation. To date, the Government's support amounts to N\$37,6 million. Under the current financial year, there is a provision for an amount of N\$7 million to assist the Federation to enable its members to build affordable houses for themselves through initiatives such as the one whose commissioning we are here to witness. This support will continue in the future.

Director of proceedings

Ladies and gentlemen

As I have said earlier, the Government and the Shack Dwellers' Federation alone will not be able to deliver the required quantity of housing units to meet the housing needs of our people. I wish to recognise and applaud and encourage the support of the private sector in our concerted effort in the delivery of housing in Namibia.

My task here today as I did a few hours ago in Swakopmund, is to introduce our special guest, who need no introduction.

And having said that, I thank you all for your kind attention and please welcome our very own First Lady of the Mighty Republic of Namibia and the patron of the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia, in the beautiful town of Walvis Bay in the Might Erongo Region.

Madam Geingos, please allow me this opportunity to invite you to the podium to address your quest.

Thank you,