



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT

BY

DR. PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP

MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

OFFICIAL HANDING OVER TO THE OHANGWENA REGION

OF OXIDATION PONDS FUNDED THROUGH THE TRUST

FUND FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EQUITY

PROVISIONS

ONGENGA SETTLEMENT, OHANGWENA REGION

05 NOVEMBER 2018

- Director of proceedings;
- Honourable Usko Nghaamwa, Governor of Ohangwena Region;
- Honourable Erickson Ndawanifa, Chairperson of Ohangwena Regional Council;
- Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors;
- Members of the Board of Trustees of the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provisions;
- Officials of Ohangwena Regional Council and the Trust Fund;
- Members of the community of Ongenga and surrounding areas;
- Members of the media;
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning to you all.

I wish to start by expressing my gratitude to the Chairman and members of the Trust Fund for having invited me to officiate at the handing over of the oxidation ponds and the access road here at Ongenga, which infrastructure has been developed through collaborative action by the Trust Fund and the Ohangwena Regional Council.

Director of proceedings

Hon Governor

Ladies and gentlemen

Sanitation forms the cornerstone for sustainable human life as it is inseparable with good health, productivity and development. While Namibia has recorded credible progress in expanding sanitation services in formal urban areas, access to improved sanitation and hygiene remains a challenge in rural areas and informal urban settlements where a large number of our population still does not have access to basic sanitation facilities and often practise open defecation or use other unhygienic practices. As such, sanitation is one of the key development priorities in our national development agenda as clearly accentuated in our National Development Plan and the Harambee Prosperity Plan, deliberate measures, such as this project among many, are being taken to bring it about.

Hon Governor

Ladies and gentlemen

This project, which entails oxidation ponds for the safe disposal and storage of sewer or waste water, is a direct measure by the Government through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development and its agency, the Trust Fund, and the Ohangwena Regional Council aimed at improving sanitation at Ongenga Settlement.

Director of proceedings

Ladies and gentlemen

I am informed that at the initiative of the Ohangwena Regional Council, the Trust fund, in keeping with its mandate of providing financial and technical assistance towards the development of the regions and local authorities, funded and facilitated the implementation of a sewer and water reticulation network at Ongenga Settlement to the tune of N\$11,9 million during the 2014/2015 financial year.

This project whose official handing over we are here to witness is an addition to the sewer and water reticulation project that I have just mentioned and its implementation started in 2017. The oxidation ponds project is essential in order to ensure that the sanitation intervention at Ongenga is complete, namely that the sewer water that is running through the installed sewer reticulation system does not flow into the Open flood plains but is safely disposed. The project was funded to the tune of N\$13 million and consists of oxidation ponds, including an access road to the ponds, a fence around the sewer ponds and a pump station.

I wish to commend the Trust Fund under the leadership of my Permanent Secretary, Mr. Nghidinua Daniel, for living up to the mandate entrusted to them in general and specifically for providing the funding and overseeing the successful implementation of the project. I equally wish to commend the leadership of Oshana Region, the Hon. Governor and Chairperson of the Regional Council and their team for your continued commitment to the development of the Region in general and specifically for initiating and bringing to the attention of the Trust Fund and the Ministry this important sanitation project.

Director proceedings

Ladies and gentlemen

National and regional development coordinated action and unity of purpose. I have noted with concern that in some cases communities are not receiving the goods and services that they are entitled to because Regional Councils are either slow and not implementing the capital projects for which money has been budgeted for by the Ministry for use by the Regional Councils. While quite often the delay is blamed on purported lengthy procurement processes, in most cases the delay is actually or more due to internal factors such as poor development planning and other internal capacity constraints.

The unfortunate consequence of non or delayed implementation of capital projects is that monies that have been budgeted for is not utilised and get taken away or re-allocated from our Vote to other needs in other sectors. This is not good and must be avoided by us, the Ministry and especially Regional Councils and Local Authorities stepping up the speed at which we are implementing capital projects.

In this connection, I am calling on the leadership at regional and local authority levels to take keen interest and closely monitor and supervise the implementation of capital projects in your regions and to hold those responsible accountable for slow and non-action. I will hold you equally accountable.

On its part, my team at the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development and I remain ready and committed to support development initiatives by Regional Councils such as this project, which seek to improve the livelihood of our people who reside in settlements or rural areas, and thereby reducing unbalanced development between urban and rural areas and the high rate of rural-urban migration.

With these remarks, it is now my pleasure to officially hand over this infrastructure to Ohangwena Regional Council, on behalf of the residents including visitors of Ongenga. I have no doubt that the project will have a positive impact in the lives of the community of Ongenga and the surrounding areas as well as visitors, socially and economically.

I thank you all for your attention!