



**Republic of Namibia**

**STATEMENT BY**

**HONOURABLE DEREK KLAZEN, MP**

**DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

**ON OCASSION OF THE**

**OFFICIAL HANDING OVER CEREMONY OF 150 TOILETS  
CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE ELIMINATION OF THE  
BUCKET TOILETS HARAMBEE PROGRAMME**

**AUS SETTLEMENT, //KHARAS REGION**

**FRIDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018 @ 09H00**

**MARMER PRIMARY SCHOOL**

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Honourable Lucia Basson, Governor of //Kharas Region;**
- **Honourable Reverend Jan Scholtz, Constituency Councillor and Chairperson of //Kharas Regional Council;**
- **Her Worship Councillor Helaria Mukapuli, Mayor of Lüderitz Town Council;**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authorities Councillors present here today;**
- **Esteemed Traditional Leaders present here today;**
- **Comrade Matheus Mumbala, SWAPO Party Regional Coordinator for //Kharas Region;**
- **Commissioner J. Tsuseb, //Kharas Regional Commander of the Namibian Police;**
- **Senior Government Officials present here today;**
- **Esteemed Sanlam Namibia for their immense overall contribution toward this course;**
- **Representatives of Construction Companies and Private Sector Partners;**
- **Esteemed beneficiaries;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**
- **All protocol observed.**

**It is indeed a great pleasure to be here today in Aus settlement to officiate this historic event of the first official handing over of the toilets constructed under the Harambee Prosperity Plan Social Progression Pillar. As we may all know, this pillar targets the Elimination of the Bucket Toilets by the end of the 2017 calendar year.**

**I am delighted to witness another milestone in the government's quest to provide proper sanitation. This is marked by eliminating and replacing the inhumane colonial bucket toilet with the respectful flushing toilets which helps our people to gain back their self-respect and thus creating a healthy and a prosperous nation. The handing over of the 150 toilets would not be possible without the assistance from our private sector partners, especially Sanlam Namibia who have immensely contributed to the elimination of the bucket system country wide.**

**I am informed that the Government initially targeted 154 bucket toilets, but ended up with 170 historical bucket toilets to be eliminated in Aus Settlement. In terms of the Social Progression Pillar of the Harambee Prosperity Plan, the deadline for the elimination of the bucket toilets was**

**the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. To date only 150 toilets had been eliminated. The remaining 20 toilets are behind schedule. I therefore would like to remind the contractor, Dollar Six Investments that you have failed the Government in delivering on its mandate, since you have denied 20 Namibians access to proper sanitation and improved hygiene. I urge you to complete the remaining toilets without further delays.**

**To the contractors who completed their project on time, I thank you for heading the Government's call to deliver the services to our people on time.**

**At this juncture, I want to once again reiterate the Ministry's call to the private sector, to follow the example set by Sanlam Namibia for meeting their social responsibilities as corporate citizen. They have strived to ensure that their employees who might be among the beneficiaries and or future employees are provided with hygienic toilets facilities.**

**Director of ceremonies;**

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

**It is indeed encouraging to witness employer heading to the call of the Government to partner up with the Government in the quest to provide improved sanitation to the nation at large, and empowering the impoverished Namibians who are tirelessly contributing to the economy and the profit margins of the employers.**

**Government's resolve and commitment towards providing improved sanitation for our people has been reinforced and is being continued under the current leadership of our President, His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob. The aforesaid is done through among others the SWAPO Party Manifesto, Fifth National Development Plans (NDP5), Vision 2030 and the Harambee Prosperity Plan.**

**Despite some obvious challenges that were and continue to be encountered during the delivery of improved sanitations in Namibia, Government did not waver in its commitment to eliminate the historical bucket toilet to needy Namibians. It is therefore worth mentioning that the results of effort and initiatives like what we are witnessing here today are highly recommendable.**

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

**As our President has said: “*No Namibian should feel left out*”. I therefore urge you to look after these facilities, keep them clean and prevent exposure to diseases.**

**The effort made to bring up these flushing toilets will be in vein if people continue to vandalise the infrastructure that are being constructed. I therefore condemn these vandalisms. These are your toilets, they belong to you. Let’s work together in addressing the sanitation problem in our town as we are doing in other towns of our beloved country.**

**Vandalism is resulting in spending money on the same items twice which is a considerable waste of scare resources. The resources that could have been spend on constructing another toilet and making someone a proud homeowner. Vandalisms also amount to sabotaging our own government’s efforts in providing us with essential services such as clean water, shelter and hygiene. Let the community take ownership of guarding these toilets. Please I would like to urge each and every one to report acts of vandalism to the Aus Settlement Council and the Namibian Police.**

**Director of ceremonies;**

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

**The Government alone will not be able to address the sanitation problem in the country. This requires a team effort in the spirit of Harambee, where the Government, the private sector and civic society are working together and pulling in the same direction. We have noticed with concern that apart from the low and ultra-low income groups, our men and women in uniform (NDF, Nampol, and Correctional Services) do not have decent accommodation with proper sanitation. I therefore urge the private sector partners developing in the Republic of Namibia to ensure that there is housing provision for these members who are offering essential services to our society.**

**Director of ceremonies;**

**In a nutshell, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who were involved in making all the arrangements that have enabled us to be here today.**

**Ladies and gentlemen;**

**It is now my pleasure to officially hand over the toilets to the beneficiaries, and I thank you all for your kind attention!**