



Republic of Namibia

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY

HON. SOPHIA SHANINGWA

MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ON OCCASION OF THE

HANDING OVER OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY VEHICLE

TO OTJINENE VILLAGE COUNCIL

WINDHOEK

08 March 2016

- **Director of proceedings;**
- **Honourable Deputy Ministers;**
- **Chairperson of Otjinene Village Council, Honourable Kauta;**
- **Chief Executive Officer of Otjinene Village Council;**
- **Management Cadres of the Ministry;**
- **Distinguished Invited Guests;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I am indeed very pleased to have been afforded this opportunity to officially handover the Fire and Emergency Vehicle for Otjinene Village Council.

Today's event is a continuation of our commitment to the Local Authorities in terms of the Local Authorities Fire Brigade Services Act, 2006 (Act No. 5 of 2006) which was passed by Parliament in December 2006. Section 2(3) of the Act clearly stipulates that the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development must subsidize the fire brigade and other emergency services rendered by local authorities, and this is precisely what we are doing and will continue doing.

The implementation of the Local Authorities Fire Brigade Services Act of 2006 has started producing positive results since 2009/2010, 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 Financial Years whereby the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development procured 60 modern firefighting equipment and handed them over to 52 Local Authorities. All these 60 firefighting equipment cost N\$121, 500, 000. 00 million.

All the 60 emergency vehicles have already been handed over to different local authorities, except for Otjinene which was delayed due to technical issues. Therefore, today's event will be a dream come true for the Otjinene community as they will have their own emergency vehicle to respond to any emergency that may occur in their area in order to save lives and property.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is the Ministry's Vision to improve the standard of living and quality of life of the people of Namibia to the level of their counterparts in the developed world by 2030. In order to reach there we need to commit ourselves, to work hard and to take good responsibility of our developments and what we have.

Therefore, the main objectives of the Ministry in assisting our Local Authorities with fire brigades and other emergency services in the towns are to:

- Improve their capacity to deal with, and prevent fires and other emergencies, prevent loss of lives and reduce damage to properties.
- Increase investors' confidence to invest in our local authorities areas by creating a safer environment.

The Ministry is further pledging its commitment to ensure that all Local Authorities are fully equipped with the necessary fire-fighting equipment to enable them to respond to the needs of their community as far as emergencies are concerned.

Director of Ceremonies;

Allow me to strongly urge you to take good care of your fire-fighting equipment. I call upon both the Honourable Councilors and the Officials to take ownership, treat and maintain this emergency equipment with good care, be responsive at all times to address fire and other accidents that have taken away precious lives of our beloved ones and had caused damages to properties. This was because we were not having the means and proper emergency services, as we are having them today.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

With these remarks, I hereby officially handover the emergency vehicle for Otjinene Village Council.

I thank you.