



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT BY

HONOURABLE DEREK KLAZEN, MP

**DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT**

ON THE OCASSION OF THE

OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF 20 HOUSES

CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE

SHACK DWELLERS FEDERATION OF NAMIBIA

SATURDAY, 12TH MAY 2018 @ 09:00

MARIENTAL

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Honourable Esme Isaack, Governor of Hardap Region;**
- **Your Worship Wilhelm Mensah, Mayor of Mariental;**
- **Honourable Edward Wambo, Chairperson of Hardap Regional Council;**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authorities Councillors present here today;**
- **Comrade Paul Nghiwilepo, Chief Executive Officer of Mariental Municipality;**
- **Esteemed Traditional Leaders present here today;**
- **Private sector colleagues from Ohorongo Cement, First National Bank of Namibia, Pupkewitz Foundation and others;**
- **Members of the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia;**
- **Staff members of Namibia Housing Action Group;**
- **Distinguished Invited Guest;**

- **Esteemed beneficiaries;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**
- **All protocol observed.**

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today, at this glorious occasion of the handover of 20 houses constructed under the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia. This event signifies another milestone in the government's quest to house the Namibian people and thus creating a healthy and a prosperous nation. As a Government, we have committed ourselves to provide housing and shelter that is not only decent, but also affordable to our people. It is therefore an honour to have been invited to speak to the audience who contributes positively to the development of our country.

Today marks another milestone in our history, that the saving groups of Mariental have initiated and realised the socio-economic development befitting

themselves through the provision of shelter. I am delighted to witness a project that you have completed with hard work, diligence and commitment.

Your efforts at improving the living conditions of our poor communities shows that you have not forgotten your fellow human beings. The activities of the Federation offers hope and meaning to lives of men, women and children who share the very same hopes that we all have for better, safer, and more promising lives.

More importantly, through your efforts, you have shown that there can be solutions to problems that we are struggling with every day. Inequality and poverty is a stark and undeniable feature of our nation. Fortunately, there are reasons to believe that we can succeed in our search for better prospects for our people. We are here today because of the powerful force for change and

productive engagement with government which are represented by the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

This initiative is commendable and deserves to be fully supported by all Namibians. It should be intensified to include all the people still living in informal settlements, backyard shacks and overcrowded houses. I want to encourage you to expand the programme and to share the benefits with other disadvantaged communities in all corners of our country.

Our country is undergoing rapid and massive urbanisation and the demand for urban housing has been increasing, especially in the area of low-income groups. In order to successfully address the escalating demands, we need to encourage efforts

such as those displayed by the Shack Dwellers Federation, along with partnerships involving government, and the private sector.

It is important to note that the Government alone will not be able to address the housing shortage in the country. This requires a team effort in the spirit of Harambee, where the Government, the private sector and civil society are working together and pulling in the same direction. In this regard, initiatives such as PPPs are commendable as is the case in the alliance formed by the Government, Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia and the private sector which led to housing of the low income earners. This alliance is testimony to the completion of 20 houses in Mariental with support from the Ohorongo Cement, FNB Foundation, Pupkewitz Foundation, and many more throughout the country.

I implore the private sector, especially the construction industry and banking sector, to increase the partnership and support the Government. Among others, you can render your assistance through devising innovative ways of building quality, but affordable houses as well as to develop and offer affordable housing financing products, especially to meet the needs of the low income groups.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

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

Partnership and participation should be the central themes of action as we work to make our cities cradles of promise, opportunity, and inclusivity.

The Government, through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development will continue to support the work of community based organisations such as the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia. This is because they 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 of our trust in the work of the Federation, we have been providing financial support to boost the housing provision efforts of the Federation. To date, the Government's financial support amounts to N\$ 44, 6 million that was used to construct 1863 houses countrywide. This support will continue in the future, and we indeed plan to increase such support in the coming financial years.

I wish to urge other private sector players to put their money where their mouths are, namely by supporting worthy courses such as the work of the Shack Dwellers Federation. The same call goes to local authorities who have jurisdiction over urban land to make land available to the Federation particularly the serviced land, so that the Federation can in turn facilitate the construction of affordable housing.

In a nutshell, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Mariental Municipality for availing land on which

the twenty (20) houses who's handing over we are here to witness.

It is now my singular honour to declare that the 20 houses are officially handed over and I will now hand over the keys to home owners. I encourage you to take a good care of your houses, pay for your services and house loan repayment. I urge you to continue being good citizens.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I thank you all for your kind attention!