



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT

BY

HON. DR. PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP

MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ON OCASSION OF THE

**OFFICIAL HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE FIRST BATCH
OF THE 200 HOUSES CONSTRUCTED BY NHE IN
OSHAKATI EKUKU EXTENSION 6, THROUGH A PUBLIC
PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT.**

FRIDAY, 14TH DECEMBER 2018

OSHAKATI

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Cde Sophia Shaningwa, SecreHonourable Clemens Kashuupulwa, Regional Governor of Oshana Region;**
- **Your Worship Councillor Angelus Iiyambo, Mayor of Oshakati Town Council;**
- **Cde Sophia Shaningwa, Secretary General of SWAPO Party;**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authorities Councillors present here today;**
- **Ms Aisha Isaak, Deputy Chairperson of the National Housing Enterprise Board of Directors;**
- **Mr. Gisbertus Mukulu, Chief Executive Officer of the National Housing Enterprise;**
- **Mr. Werner Iita, Chief Executive Officer of Oshakati Town Council;**
- **Commissioner Rauha Amwele, Oshana Regional Commander of the Namibian Police;**
- **Special Invited guests;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is a great joy and pleasure to be back here today in Oshakati, on this glorious day which signifies yet another milestone in the Government's quest to house the Namibian people in descent and affordable houses.

It is a this very site where my Predecessor, Cde Sophia Shaningwa, stood 11 months ago on the 25 January 2018, at the groundbreaking ceremony that marked the commencement of the construction of the 200 houses that you see here today and for which you 41, you are witnessing the official handing over to the deserving beneficiaries from the National Housing Enterprise under the Public-Private Partnership here at Ekuku Extension 6, in Oshakati.

Directors of Ceremonies;

Ladies and gentlemen;

As you may all be aware by now, the construction of houses by the Government under the Mass Housing Development Programme and the servicing of land under the Massive Urban Land Servicing Project interventions are not the only interventions being undertaken and promoted by the Government in the quest to reduce the

housing backlogs in the country especially for the low and ultra-low income groups.

In line with the Government's unwavering commitment to accelerate the provision of affordable housing and access to serviced urban land, the Oshakati Town Council secured funding from the Central Government through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development to plan and provide basic services at the township of Ekuku Extension 6.

In this regard, today I am officially handing over the first batch of houses, 41 constructed out of 200 of the total serviced residential plots that have been serviced by the Town Council and have been allocated to National Housing Enterprise to execute their mandate. And from what I am witnessing here today, it is a mandate well executed indeed. At the ground-breaking ceremony on the 25th January 2018, my predecessor, pointed out her hope that the prices of the housing products that are going to be constructed here will match the target market segment and I hope that is the case here today. It was also her expectation that National Housing Enterprise deliver these houses in a record time, in order to reduce its

waiting list, and I can see NHE delivered the houses in 11 months.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Government, through national development roadmaps such as Vision 2030, National Development Plans and the Harambee Prosperity Plan, has identified and has been investing in housing and land delivery as two of our critical national development priorities and important vehicles for addressing poverty and inequalities. Taking into consideration the existing efforts made by Government, the challenges of housing and urban land delivery is not insurmountable if we, Government, private and the community pull our resources and efforts together and pursue inclusive, equitable and innovative strategies, such as this Public-Private Partnership initiative.

It is therefore commendable that the NHE has also employed the same strategy that has delivered the product we are handing over today and a strategy that had been working for us to deliver the much needed houses to our people. However I got a problem because I don't see

this strategy reducing our informal settlements. I need us all to declare a war against informal settlement and to deploy our effort and resources to:

- Do town planning to formalise informal settlements;**
- Construct bulk services to connect our people to basic services; and**
- To construct descent affordable houses for our people.**

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Housing development projects such as this one are so important because they contribute to the realisation of our desired outcomes as outlined in the *Social Progression Pillar* of the Harambee Prosperity Plan. We therefore need to implement these housing projects not only for the sake of providing the much needed houses but also to positively contribute to the socio-economic development of our country. The spills over effects of a project of this magnitude are massive, including direct and indirect employment during the construction period, as well as economic development of Oshakati in particular and Namibia at large.

At this juncture, let me point out that affordable housing has become a daunting challenge in developing countries and Namibia is not an exemption, especially taking into consideration that majority of the population are not able to buy houses at the inflated market prices. It is therefore important that when Government has created an enabling environment such as these that we have in our country; the private sector should join the quest to house all the Namibians by constructing quality affordable houses, maximum N\$ 500 000,00

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I wish to commend the National Housing Enterprise and its private sector partners for initiating this housing development project in the needy township of Ekuku Extension 6 and I urge them to extend this initiative and expedite the delivery of descent affordable houses to our people living in informal settlements.

Let me also use this opportunity to commend the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NHE and your

fellow Directors, the CEO and your team for the progressive developments that the NHE has been undertaking under your leadership. Ms. Isaak and your team, please pass this to your chairperson to continue doing the great work.

As I conclude, I want to remind all role players and stakeholders, Regional Councils, Local Authorities, Public Enterprises, Private Sector and Financial Institutions to mention just a few, who are critical in the delivery of houses in our quest to reduce the housing backlog, that the time for planning and for plans gathering dust under the table is over. This year and beyond, we must deliver and I am only interested in seeing results.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is now my distinct pleasure to handover the first batch of the 200 houses constructed through NHE first phase of its RFP project.

I thank you all for your kind attention and i would like to best you all a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2019, which is an important year in our calendar.