



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT BY

HON. SOPHIA SHANINGWA, MP

MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ON OCCASION OF

THE HANDING OVER OF THE 40 HOUSES ALREADY

CONSTRUCTED

AS WELL AS

THE GROUND BREAKING FOR 360 TO BE CONSTRUCTED

UNDER A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE OTJIWARONGO MUNICIPALITY AND

PRIVATE CONTRACTORS

OTJIWARONGO, TUESDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2018

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Hon. Otto Ipinge, Governor of Otjozondjupa Region;**
- **Comrade Moses Tjipurua !Omeb, Special Advisor to the Hon. Governor, Otjozondjupa Region;**
- **Comrade Susan Hikopua, SWAPO Party Regional Coordinator for Otjozondjupa Region;**
- **Hon. Julius Neumbo, Chairperson of the Otjozondjupa Regional Council;**
- **Your Worship Cllr. Bennes Haimbondi, Mayor of Otjiwarongo Municipality;**
- **Hon. Cllr. Moderatha Shaduka, Deputy Mayor of Otjiwarongo Municipality;**
- **Cllr. Hilda Jesaja, Chairperson of Management Committee of Otjiwarongo Municipality;**
- **Hon. Regional and Local Authorities Councillors;**
- **The Permanent Secretary and other managers and staff from the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development;**
- **The Acting CRO and other officials from the Otjozondjupa Regional Council;**
- **Mr. Ismael /Howoseb, Chief Executive Officer of Otjiwarongo Municipality and other managers and staff members from the Municipality;**

- **Commissioner James Nderuru, Regional Commander of the Namibian Police;**
- **Esteemed private developers and contractors;**
- **Distinguished invited guests;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is a great joy and pleasure for me to be here today to officiate at the handing over of 40 houses that have been constructed through a public-private partnership (PPP) arrangement between the Otjiwarongo Municipality and private developers as well as to break the grounds where a further 360 houses will be constructed under the same PPP arrangement.

This is yet another tangible demonstration of the ongoing commitment by the Government aimed at reducing the backlog in housing and access to serviced urban land.

Director of proceedings

Ladies and gentlemen

In keeping with the Government's unwavering commitment to accelerate the provision of affordable housing and access to serviced urban land, the Municipality of Otjiwarongo secured funding from the Central Government through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development to plan and provide basic services at the townships of Freedom Park and Heroes Park. I am informed that a total of 465 residential plots have been serviced by the Municipality in this regard and that all the plots are zoned single residential and earmarked for construction of housing units that will be affordable to low and medium income earners.

Since the ultimate aim of servicing residential land is to construct houses to house the needy, the Municipality, with the support of the Ministry, proceeded to invite and engage private developers through a competitive bidding and selection process.

I am informed that eight (8) developers were selected and each given 5 houses to build in the first phase and once they have proven their ability to deliver on time and budget as well as in terms of set quality standards, they stand a good chance to be awarded additional houses to

build. We are here this morning for me to receive from the Municipality forty (40) houses, which have been completed and handed over to the municipality and for me to hand over these houses over to the selected beneficiaries.

I am informed that forty (40) houses are already occupied, which means that 40 families now have a place that they call home. I am very delighted about this prompt delivery of houses to the needy instead of having houses laying idle and being exposed to risks such as vandalism. I wish to commend the developers and the municipality for the partnership and for the expeditious manner in which they delivered the work in this first phase of the project.

It is gratifying to note that a further three hundred and sixty (360) residential units are under construction in the second phase of the same project as we speak, which means that 360 more families will have their dreams for a decent home and shelter met in due course. This is a commendable job, and I look forward to the speedy delivery the said houses.

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 inequality and for sustaining social harmony and our democracy and political stability.

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 PPP initiative.

Indeed, public-private partnerships and private sector investment are part of the set of tools that the Government, through its Mass Housing Development Programme Blueprint of 2013, has identified to be used in scaling up the provision of affordable housing and serviced urban land in order to meet the ever increasing needs of our people.

As such, the Central Government, through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development and the Office of Attorney General, has been providing financial and legal support respectively to local authorities who are seeking to explore and enter into mutually beneficial agreements with private developers in the areas of housing development and urban land servicing. The housing development project that we are witnessing here today is one of the many such housing and land development initiatives by local authorities that have been supported by the Government.

Our housing development strategy also recognises and provides for the direct and active role of the community through organised group savings organisations such as the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia. I am informed that part of the land that municipality has serviced and is constructing houses under the PPP arrangement has been made available to the Shack Dwellers' Federation of Namibia, and the Federation has also started installing bulk services after which the Federation will also proceed to build affordable houses for its qualifying members in Otjiwarongo.

These cooperative efforts that I have just described and indeed our presence here today, ladies and gentlemen, is a practical example of Harambee in action and is a re-affirmation of our shared recognition and resolve, collectively as a nation and as individual caring citizens, that all citizens of our country have the right to decent and affordable housing and shelter.

Director of ceremonies

Ladies and gentlemen

Housing development projects such as this are so important in that they do not only contribute to the realisation of our desired outcomes as outlined in the social progression pillar of the Harambee Prosperity Plan, but also have other positive multiplier effects such as job creation during construction period as well as improved sanitation and security of tenure.

Director of ceremonies

Ladies and gentlemen

Our housing delivery strategy will only serve its purpose if it provides affordable housing to the needy especially the

ultra-low, low and middle income groups. Affordable housing has become a key issue especially in the developing nations of the world including our country where majority of the population is not able to buy houses at market prices.

Affordable housing refers to the provision of housing units that are priced in the manner that will allow the target beneficiaries, that is the lower and middle income earners, to also be able to afford other basic living costs such as food, clothing, transport, education and medical care.

In this connection, it is pleasing to note that the Otjiwarongo Municipality and its partners are adhering to my call for the houses that are being constructed under this PPP initiative to be affordable. I am informed that the houses that have been constructed are priced not more than N\$500,000.00 and the basic price for a house without extras is capped between N\$290,000.00 and N\$409,000.00 per house. This is commendable indeed!

Director of ceremonies;

Ladies and gentlemen

In conclusion, I wish to commend the Otjiwarongo Municipality and its private sector partners for initiating this housing development project in the needy townships of Freedom and Heroes Park and the houses that have so far been completed and being handed over to owners today. I urge them to expedite the completion of the next batch of houses and look forward to their hand over in due course.

To the beneficiaries, I am very happy for you and I hope the houses that have been provided to you under this initiative will meet your needs and assist you to live a better life. Please take good care of the houses and be caring citizens honouring your home loan repayment so that the money that you pay can be used to help other needy Namibians to also acquire their homes.

I look forward to hand over the completed houses under Phase 1 of the Project to the owners and I wish to invite the identified beneficiaries to come forward. In the same vein, I am looking forward to the breaking of the ground for Phase 2 of the Project.

I thank you all for your kind attention and best wishes for the New Year.