



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT

BY

HONOURABLE SOPHIA SHANINGWA, MP

MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ON OCCASION OF THE

**OFFICIAL GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE 200
HOUSES TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY NHE IN OSHAKATI
EKUKU EXTENSION 6, THROUGH A PUBLIC PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT.**

THURSDAY, 25TH JANUARY 2018

OSHAKATI

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Honourable Derek Klazen, Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development;**
- **Honourable Clemens Kashiupulwa, Regional Governor of Oshana Region;**
- **Your Worship Councillor Angelus Iiyambo, Mayor of Oshakati Town Council;**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authorities Councillors present here today;**
- **Comrade Sam Shivute, Chairperson of the National Housing Enterprise Board;**
- **Comrade Gisbertus Mukulu, Chief Executive Officer of the National Housing Enterprise;**
- **Comrade Werner Iita, Chief Executive Officer of Oshakati Town Council;**
- **Commissioner Rauha Amwele, Oshana Regional Commander of the Namibian Police;**
- **Senior Government Officials present here today;**
- **Distinguished Invited Guest;**
- **Esteemed Contractors;**
- **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 another milestone in the government's quest to house the Namibian people in descent houses.

Allow me to address you on this occasion of another official ground-breaking ceremony, marking the commencement of the construction of the 200 houses to be constructed by 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, I am informed that 200 of the total serviced residential plots that have been serviced by the Town Council have been allocated to National Housing Enterprise to execute their mandate. The erven are zoned single residential and are earmarked for construction of housing units that will be affordable to low and medium income earners. It is therefore my hope that the prices of the housing products that are going to be constructed here will match the target market segment. It is also, expected of National Housing Enterprise to deliver these houses in a record time, in order to reduce its waiting list.

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 been working for us to deliver the much needed houses to the people.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Housing development projects such as this 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 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.

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 once again urge them to expedite the completion of the houses and I am looking forward to witness their hand over in the near future.

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. Comrade Shivute and your team, 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;

With these remarks, it is now my distinct pleasure to break this ground as a symbol of the official commencement of the construction of 200 houses here at Ekuku Extension 6.

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