



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT

BY

HON. SILVIA MAKGONE, MP

DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ON OCASSION OF THE

**OFFICIAL GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE 50
HOUSES TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY NHE IN RUNDU, KAISOSI
PROPER, THROUGH A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
ARRANGEMENT.**

THURSDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY 2018 @ 10:00

RUNDU, KAISOSI PROPER

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Hon. Dr. Samuel Mbambo, Regional Governor of Kavango East Region;**
- **Your Worship Cllr. Verna Sinimbo, Mayor of Rundu Town Council;**
- **Cllr. Anastasia Antonio, Chairperson of Management Committee of Rundu Town Council;**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authorities Councillors present here today;**
- **Board members of the National Housing Enterprise;**
- **Mr. Gisbertus Mukulu, Chief Executive Officer of the National Housing Enterprise;**
- **Mrs. Fransiska Thikerete, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Rundu Town Council;**
- **Commissioner J.N. Ngondo, Kavango East 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 here today in Rundu, on this glorious occasion which signifies another milestone in the government's quest to house the Namibian people in descent houses.

I am saying joy because it is precisely a week ago that NHE hosted two events of a similar nature in Oshakati and Omuthiya.. And today, allow me to address you on this occasion of yet another official ground-breaking ceremony, marking the commencement of another 123 houses to be constructed by the National Housing Enterprise under the Public-Private Partnership here at Kaisosi Proper, in Rundu.

The 3 ground breakings show that 2018 is not just another year for NHE but a year of delivery and productivity, and we need to applaud NHE for starting the year with a bang!

To us as the Government, the construction of houses 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 in the quest to reduce the housing

backlog in the country, especially for the low and ultra-low income groups.

The Government, through national development roadmaps such as Vision 2030, National Development Plans and the Harambee Prosperity Plan, has identified and invested 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 proven to be working to deliver the much needed houses to our 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 Rundu 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 current market prices. It is therefore important that when government has created an enabling environment that the private sector should join the quest to house all the Namibians by constructing quality affordable houses.

Based on the aforementioned, NDP5 put as desired outcome that by 2022, the Namibian households living in improvised houses should be reduced from 19% to 12%. This is a clerical call to us all, and we can only get this right through collective efforts and through the realisation that some of our people don't have a dignified life yet, and by making a contribution we will be making a difference in their lives.

While we are busy with new developments, we should also take cognise the Sustainable Development Goal 11, that is to make our towns and cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

The challenges that our towns face can be overcome in ways that allow them to continue to thrive and grow while improving resources use and reducing poverty.

Director of Ceremonies;

The Ministry once again wish to commend the National Housing Enterprise and its private sector partners for initiating another housing development project in the needy township of Rundu Kaisosi Proper and I once again urge NHE to expedite the completion of the houses.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Rundu Town Council for availing land for this development and encourage them to do more.

It will be unfair to conclude without echoing the reminder to 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 long over. This year and beyond, we must deliver and the Ministry is only interested in seeing results.

Director of Ceremonies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Distinguished Invited Guest

With these remarks, it is now my distinct pleasure to do the ground breaking as a symbol of the official commencement of the construction of 123 houses here at Rundu Kaisosi Proper.

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