



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT

BY

HON. DR. PEYA MUSHELENGA, MP

MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ON OCCASION OF THE

**OFFICIAL GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE 50
HOUSES TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY NHE IN OKAHAO,
EXTENSION 3, THROUGH A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP
ARRANGEMENT.**

THURSDAY, 6TH APRIL 2018 @ 10:00

OKAHAO, EXTENSION 3

- **Director of Ceremonies;**
- **Hon. Erginus Endjala, Regional Governor of Omusati Region;**
- **Hon. Modestus Amutse, Chairperson of Management Committee of Omusati Regional Council;**
- **Your Worship Cllr. Immanuel E. Amutenya, Mayor of Okahao Town Council;**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authorities Councillors present here today;**
- **Mr. Sam Shivute, Chairperson of the National Housing Enterprise Board;**
- **Mr. Gisbertus Mukulu, Chief Executive Officer of the National Housing Enterprise;**
- **Senior Government Officials present here today;**
- **Distinguished Invited Guests;**
- **Esteemed Contractors;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

It is a great joy and pleasure to be here today in Okahao, on this glorious occasion which signifies another milestone in the government's endeavours to provide housing.

Not long ago, about a month ago NHE hosted three events of a similar nature in Oshakati, Omuthiya and Rundu. Today we are witnessing yet another occasion, marking the commencement of the construction of another 50 houses to be constructed by the National Housing Enterprise under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) here at Extension 3, in Okahao in Omusati Region. The PPP mechanism ensures the participation of the private sector in the development programmes of the government. Their involvement compliments government resources, thus enabling government to achieve its development goals and targets on a large scale. It is therefore commendable that our public enterprise, the NHE, has also employed the same strategy that has been working for us 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 Okahao 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 current market prices. I am informed that the prices of these houses range between N\$ 300 000-00 to slightly over N\$ 500 000-00.

Now that the 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. It is one thing to provide a housing, it is another to provide an affordable and decent dwelling. As the majority of our people are from low income group, it is my belief that we should endeavour to provide houses at a price of not more than N\$ 500 000-00.

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 Okahao Extension 3 and I once again urge NHE to expedite the completion of the houses.

To the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NHE and your fellow Directors, the CEO and your team; this what we are witnessing here today is indeed progressive development in action being undertaken by NHE under your leadership. Mr Shivute and your team, I urge you to continue

doing the great work. The nation look upon you to deliver it from the state of homelessness. It is always a challenge that the demand of housing is higher than the supply. Accordingly, as your line Minister I direct you to work hand in hand with the local authorities in ensuring that you have a consolidated list of house applicants, who are attended to on the basis of first come, first served. I would like to further urge you to work closely with electricity distributors, like NORED in the present case, so that when you are planning housing development, NORED should equally plan to supply power to the area concerned.

Director of Ceremonies

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, we must continue to work tirelessly to reduce the housing backlog.

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 50 houses here at Okahao Extension 3.

I thank you all for your kind attention and let's build Namibia for a better today and the future.