



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT

BY

**HON. SOPHIA SHANINGWA, MP
MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
HANDING OVER BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA'S
STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF FUNDS
COLLECTED DURING THE LAND-A-DOLLAR CAMPAIGN
TOWARDS THE GOVERNMENT'S MASSIVE URBAN LAND
SERVICING PROJECT INITIATIVE**

**THURSDAY, 11TH JANUARY 2018,
WINDHOEK**

- **Director of Ceremonies**
- **Hon. Deputy Minister Derek Klazen**
- **Your Worship Councillor Muesee Kazapua, Mayor of City of Windhoek;**
- **Mr Robert Kahimise, Chief Executive Officer of the City of Windhoek;**
- **Ms Margareth Mainga, Dean of Students of the University of Namibia;**
- **Mr Kalola Tuhafeni, Vice-President of the Students Representative Council of the University of Namibia;**
- **The rest of the team from the University of Namibia;**
- **The Permanent Secretary and his team from the Ministry**
- **Members of the media**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

Adequate supply of and access to serviced urban land in particular and productive land in general is one of the necessary conditions for achieving the national aspirations and desired outcomes. The scarcity or inadequate supply of serviced land is both pushing up the prices of land and also slowing down the process of housing delivery and general development in the country directly or indirectly.

As such, the availability of affordable serviced land in both urban and rural areas is a critical prerequisite for meeting our national goals of providing decent housing and addressing the prevalent undesirable

phenomenon of informal settlements as well as for business investment and economic development.

It is for these reasons that the Government of Namibia has since independence identified and prioritized urban and rural development and more specifically the delivery of serviced urban land as one of the important conditions for socio-economic development and as one of its top agenda. Among the key interventions that have been employed by the Government are budgetary allocations under the National Development Budget to local authorities and regional councils to enable them to provide basic infrastructure such as water, electricity, roads and sewerage networks and services. It is also a known fact that the provision of and improved access to serviced urban land and decent housing has been and continue to be one of the key development priorities of our National Development Plans, our Vision 2030, the Harambee Prosperity Plan and our Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs).

Director of proceedings

Esteemed Ladies and Gentlemen

The responsibility and burden of housing and urban land provision cannot be left to the Government alone, but requires concerted efforts from both the public and private sectors if we are to make the dream of 'adequate affordable housing' a reality for our people, specifically to

the low and middle income households who constrained to have their needs for decent shelter met through the market.

It is my conviction that the housing challenge is not insurmountable if we, Government, private and the community pull our resources and efforts together and develop inclusive, equitable and innovative strategies, such as this initiative.

While inadequate and unequal access to housing and urban land is a challenge, it can, as evident from our gathering here today, be an opportunity and a factor of unity of purpose and collective action and investment by the Government, the private sector and the entire community.

There is an African Proverb that says and I quote: *“The load is lighter when two people carry it”*. This is so true and is collaborated by Robert South who said and I quote: *“Problems can become opportunities when the right people come together”*.

Here at home, our President is continuously rallying and reminding us about the centrality and importance of unity and inclusivity in the preservation of our hard won peace and independence and in order to bring about accelerated development and shared prosperity for all.

Director of proceedings

Ladies and gentlemen

We are here this morning to witness a demonstration of unity of purpose and partnership between the government, the academia and the youth. We are here as already pointed out by Mrs Mainga to witness the handing over of a financial contribution in the amount of One Hundred and forty thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$140,779. 38) that has been mobilised by through the Land-A-Dollar initiative by the University of Namibia, in response to the call of our President and as a gesture of solidarity by the University and the Students towards the Government's efforts that are aimed at scaling up the servicing and provision of serviced urban land in the country.

On behalf of the Government and indeed my behalf as the Minister tasked to spearhead national efforts towards the delivery of serviced urban land and the Massive Urban Land Servicing Project, I wish to express our most profound gratitude to management and Students Representative Council of the University of Namibia for this noble gesture of partnership and generous campaign and contribution. You deserve a round of applause (*applause*).

In keeping with our President's mathematical formula of *Accountability plus transparency equals Trust (A+T=T)*, I wish to assure UNAM SRC and Management that your generous contribution will be put to good use namely that it will be added to the other resources that are earmarked for land servicing and towards making a visible difference in the lives of our fellow countrywomen and men who are still struggling to find a place to come home. It should also be

understood that during 21st Century and beyond, urbanization shall grow and therefore resources under our care should be handled prudently in order to respond positively to this phenomenon.

With these remarks, I wish to renew our gratitude and appreciation to UNAM and our youth and students for their generous donation and partnership. Thank you so much for this donation. I invite other Namibians, individuals, groups and businesses to join in and support this noble course.

I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year and thank you all for kind attention.