



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT BY

HONOURABLE DEREK KLAZEN, MP

DEPUTY MINISTER

MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ON OCCASION OF THE

**OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF 47 COMPLETED OTJINENE
HOUSES FUNDED BY STANDARD BANK'S BUY A BRICK
INITIATIVE; AND THE GROUND BREAKING FOR 14 NEW
HOUSES AND BRICK MAKING**

FRIDAY, 18TH MAY 2018

OTJINENE

- **Director of proceedings, Mr Heinrich Amushila;**
- **Mr. Pijoo Nganate, Special Advisor to the Governor of Omaheke Region;**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authorities Councillors present;**
- **Honourable Landine Kauta, Chairperson of Otjinene Village Council;**
- **Honourable Erwin Katjizeu, Councillor of Otjinene Constituency;**
- **Esteemed Traditional Leaders present here today;**
- **Ms. Magreth Mengo, Head of Marketing-Standard Bank of Namibia;**
- **Ms. Ingenesia Nguvenjengua, the Otjinene Federation Facilitator;**
- **Esteemed leaderships and members of the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia and the Namibia Housing Action Group;**

- **Community members and beneficiaries of Otjinene;**
- **Distinguished invited guests,**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Ladies and gentlemen.**

I am delighted to be here this morning, to officiate at this historic event which marks the official handing over of 47 houses constructed by the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia with the funding from Standard Bank's Buy-a-Brick initiative; and the launch of the construction of 14 new houses here in Otjinene.

As we all know, the provision of housing in our country cannot be left to Government alone, as Government will not be in a position to raise and provide all the resources that are required for housing programmes.

It requires the support and involvement of other strategic partners such as the private sector and members of the public. We therefore have a collective responsibility to build a country we want to see in the future. I want to urge every Namibian to do something personally or collectively through reaching out to our less fortunate communities who lives in shacks and make a difference in their lives.

Currently Namibia is facing a housing backlog approximately 200 000 and this number is growing by around 4000 annually. It is for this reason that I fully support Standard Bank's Buy-a-Brick fundraising initiative. This initiative is geared towards addressing the country's acute housing challenge through the provision of funding to the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia to build decent brick houses for its members countrywide.

Director of proceedings;

Ladies and gentlemen;

I want to further emphasise the point that plastic shelters and corrugated iron shacks are not desirable in our country. We cannot have people living in such undignified structures and exposing our people to damages caused by fires and rain. We should not construct more shacks, but build proper houses and move away from shacks. I advise everyone who is living in a shack to join the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia which will allow you to acquire a plot and become a proud home owner one day.

It is pleasing to note that Standard Bank's corporate social investments is also aligned to Government's Mass Housing Development Programme; as well as the land and housing provision under the *Social Progression Pillar* of the Harambee Prosperity Plan as set forward by our President, His Excellency Dr.

Hage Geingob. Every Namibian has the right to live in a decent dwelling, therefore I am appealing to the private sector to join hands in helping to address the housing shortage challenge in our country.

Director of proceedings;

Ladies and gentlemen;

I am reliably informed that since its inception in 2015, the Standard Bank Buy-a-Brick initiative has collectively raised a commendable amount of N\$1.4 million during the 2015/2016 financial year. I was also reliably informed that the aforesaid amount has materialised in the construction of 44 new brick houses for the less privileged residents of Rehoboth. Moreover, I was informed that last year the bank handed over a notable amount of N\$1.8 million to the Federation which has now culminated in building these houses that we are witnessing here today in Otjinene. The other towns that will also benefit from

this funding are Berseba in //Karas Region as well as Havana and Okahandja Park informal settlements in Windhoek.

Unveiling these completed houses and the launching of the construction of new houses in Otjinene should be viewed as a milestone. Therefore, both the Shack Dwellers Federation and Standard Bank deserve a big round of applause.

In the same vein, I would also like to urge other corporate entities and institutions from the private sector to emulate this shining example because the current housing challenge is a collective responsibility. We need more smart partnerships like these in Namibia in order to eradicate poverty, address the housing shortage and promote employment in order for our nation to reach economic prosperity. We should all be involved in

making a positive difference in providing decent shelter to disadvantaged Namibians.

It is through community projects or initiatives like these that some form of relief is brought to the daily pressures faced by our rural and urban poor. I therefore believe that by working together we can meet the housing challenge faced by our country and make the most of the collective strength for our communities.

In conclusion, I want to wholeheartedly thank Mr Mungunda, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Bank and his team, for leading this noble initiative. I call upon all the Namibian people who feel that we owe a positive change to our country and her people to make their contribution too.

Last but not least, I want to encourage the 47 new home owners of Otjinene to look well after their

houses – after all a house is a valuable investment. I also want to urge the constructors who will construct the new 14 houses, of which the ground breaking ceremony I am going to do today to complete the houses in a record time, but within the confinement of the resources allocated.

With these remarks, director of proceedings, it is now my honour and privilege to invite this gathering to join me as I perform my duties here today which are to: officially handover the house keys to the new homeowners; and secondly, the ground breaking as symbolic ceremony for the commencements of the construction of new houses and brick making.

I thank you.