



Republic of Namibia

**Keynote address**

**by Honourable Dr Peya Mushelenga, MP**

**Minister of Urban and Rural Development in Namibia on the  
occasion of the inauguration of the Grunau Settlement Office**

**08<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

**Grunau Settlement**

Director of Ceremonies

Hon. Lucia Basson, Governor of //Kharas Region;

Hon. Jan Scholtz, Chairperson of the Kharas Regional Council;

Hon. Dennis B. Coetzee: Regional Councillor of Karasburg East Constituency  
and other Regional Councillors present;

Hon. Josephine Basson: The Mayor of Karasburg Town and Fellow Local  
Authority Councillors;

The Traditional Leaders of the Bondelswarts Traditional Authority and other  
Traditional Leaders present;

All members of Grunau Settlement Development Committee

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure and privilege to be here with you today at this historic  
ceremony, marking the official inauguration of the newly constructed Grunau  
Settlement office.

Over the past years, the Government has constructed numerous roads, schools,  
hospital and clinics, water pipelines in both rural and urban areas. Despite  
various challenges experienced, the Namibian Government has accelerated  
development in all forms, especially in rural areas, where a large majority of our  
inhabitants resides. The ultimate goal is to bring the state of infrastructure in  
rural areas at a possible advanced level, so that our rural area people could  
enjoy amenities like their urban area counterparts.

Directors of Ceremonies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sub-national structures are created to ensure smooth coordination of national programmes at regional and local government levels. This is rolled out through the vehicle of decentralisation, which ensure an inclusive governance for inclusive development. Communities do participate, discuss, plan and prioritise what should be developed and by when a development should take place through Community Development Committee.

In line with the Decentralisation Policy, the aim is to bring services closer to the people and provide relief to community in traveling long distances to the public offices to get the services they need. Other benefits of decentralisation include the stipulation of greater participation and articulation of local views, needs and to promote participatory development and good governance. It also empowers Regional Councils and constituencies to plan and implement local needs and demands. The inauguration of this office signifies the beginning of a closer interaction between the government, through its functionaries and the people of Grunau Settlement.

Director of Ceremonies,

Against the background of economic downturn characterised by financial constraints, Government continue with the commitment to ensure that the basic services such as water, electricity, sanitation, housing, refuse and other essential developmental activities are delivered to the people.

Government will continue to bring development and services closer to the people of Grunau by implementing the first phase of a sewerage flushing system within this financial year (2019/20), at a cost of around N\$ 7 million. The contract is already awarded and the construction will commence soon. The staff establishments are fully capacitated and therefore, there will be no excuses for

service delivery. I want to also emphasize that the Community should pay their service bills in order to bring more services.

I further wish to comment the regional leadership for the development in Grunau Settlement for the past three years for ensuring that this constituency rapidly prosper as illustrated by, among others the rehabilitation and construction of 12 build together houses, the construction of 20 toilets for the elderly, the establishment of an early childhood development centre and the erection of a desalination facility to soften the water for human consumption. It is also important to note that total investment for infrastructure development as mentioned above for this fiscal year is approximately N\$ 20 Million. It is more than any other place within the Constituency and the Region.

Directors of Ceremonies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I urge all regional leadership and residents of the Grunau to make use of the office by getting information; register their problems and other services available. I further call on you to guard and protect this office against vandalism as this defeats the purpose of development. I call for unity to forge ahead with development. We have the tools to guide us such as Vision 2030, NDP 5, HPP and the Strategic Plan of the Kharas Regional Council and the Ministry in general, and indeed the SWAPO Party Manifesto.

In conclusion, I wish to re-affirm the continued commitment and readiness of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development in supporting development initiatives such as these projects that seek to improve the livelihood of our people who reside in settlements or rural areas, and thereby reducing unbalanced development between urban and rural areas. As your line Minister, I will continue to advocate for adequate funding for Regional Councils and Local

Authorities in order to facilitate service delivery to and working closely with the masses

It is now my singular honour to declare the newly constructed office of the Grunau Settlement Office officially opened.

I thank you!