



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

**REMARKS
BY**

HON. ERASTUS UUTONI

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
OFFICIAL LAUNCH AND GORUND BREAKING OF THE
AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE FOR ULTRA LOW
INCOME EARNERS IN RESIDING IN INFORMAL
SETTLEMENTS**

2 JULY 2020

HAVANA PROPER, WINDHOEK

Director of Ceremonies,

- Your Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Vice-President of the Republic of Namibia,
- Honourable Ministers Present;
- Hon. Derek Klazen Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development
- Hon Deputy Ministers Present;
- Hon Laura McLoed-Katjorua, Governor of Khomas Region
- Hon. Rachel Jakob, Chairperson: Khomas Regional Council;
- Your Worship Cllr Fransina Kahungu, Mayor: Windhoek Municipality;
- Hon. Regional and Local Authority Councilors;
- Mr. Sam Shivute, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Housing Enterprise;
- Captains of Industries;
- Senior officials and Specially Invited Guests
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to be stand before you this afternoon for an initiative that come as a result of collective effort.

Your Excellency, Comrade. Vice-President two weeks ago I led a delegation comprising of representatives from Khomas Regional Council, Municipality of Windhoek, National Housing Enterprises and the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development apprised presidency on the importance of a joined project by the parties to transform the informal settlements in Namibia through formalization, upgrade and the provision of homes for ultra-low-income residents of our country.

From the onset, allow me to thank you Your Excellency for responding to our short notice even though having more other equally important issues to attend to. I really thank you for having the nation at heart.

Director of Ceremonies

I really want to applaud our joint technical team for their commitment toward the realization of this Project launching. Yes, we have pushed you left and right, we have scream at you but you remained committed to ensure that the planning process is realised.

On that note, it is a fact that the lives of those living in the informal settlements in Namibia are characterized daily by what seem to be a persuasive idea that they are forgotten. The future of these residents and their beloved families is further dealt a terrible blow by a combination of factors, the least of which is **lack of land tenure security, exorbitant house prices.**

It is in respect of these painful realities that the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, the Khomas Regional Council, the Windhoek Municipality and the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) decided to join hands to pilot a low income, ultra-low and ultra-ultra-low income-centric housing initiative called **Informal Settlements Upgrading**.

Distinguish Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

We have identified three affordable products that are: basic shelter, one and two bedroom houses and on top of that our focus is also on land ownership with is a regarded basis at the moment.

It is not just the urban poor that live in informal settlements, but also modest and middle-income households that are unable to access affordable housing. We are through this project targeting those that are doing low income jobs. Thus, the extent to which upgrading projects reaches the informal areas and what the long-term impacts are on the living conditions of the residents are some of the important ramifications.

Having said that, I wish to conclude that a collective intervention toward the improvement of Informal Settlement is key. If we joint hands and work together as we have demonstrated over the past few weeks, I strongly believe we can achieve a lot. I wish mentioned that a company from the north **Dharani Traders** contacted my office to pledge an additional house to a lucky resident that will drawn.

Again, I was informed by the Project Technical Team that **BUCO Hardware and Buildware** has pledged reduced and fixed prices on the material for the construction of the houses.

Therefore, I strongly appeal to all corporate entities, organizations and individuals to join us on this journey and change the landscape of all informal settlements in Namibia for the better.

This project will also concentrate on the accord job opportunities for our vocational graduates.

Finally, let me thank your all for your believing in this dream to change the landscape of our informal settlements in Namibia.

Without futher do, I am also given a responsibility to introduce to you our Keynote speaker:

Introduction

Your Excellency, please welcome on stage to address the Nation