



H.E. Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia

Happy
New Year!

MASS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME DELIVERS 89 MORE HOUSES

**53 houses delivered under
the Informal Settlement
Upgrading Programme,
Windhoek**

**Training of Local
Authorities on good
governance**

**The /Gaio-Daman
Traditional Authority Office
and Community Hall
officially opened**

MASS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME DELIVERS 89 MORE HOUSES



SWAKOPMUND- His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia officiated at the handing over of 89 houses built under the Government sponsored Mass Housing Development Programme (MHDP) at Matutura Extension 9, Swakopmund, Erongo Region, on 14 December 2023.

In his keynote address, the President emphasised that the MHDP is one of the many initiatives conceived by the government, aimed at addressing the housing backlog in the country. The head of State noted that in order to scale up the delivery of serviced land and housing in the country, the Cabinet on 07 November 2023 approved the revised National Housing Policy and Implementation Action Plan, which provides the accelerated interventions and actions to scale up the upgrading of informal settlements countrywide.

“Regarding the provision of land tenure security and the upgrading of informal settlements, the Government through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development continues to provide budgetary allocations to Regional Councils and Local Authorities to service land,” said the President.

Speaking at the same occasion, Hon. Erastus Uutoni, the Minister of Urban and Rural Development said the completion of the 89 houses was made possible by MURD in partnership with other role players, notably the Ministry of Works and Transport,

Ministry of Finance, Public Enterprises, Office of the Attorney General, National Planning Commission, NHE, the Swakopmund Municipality, consulting engineers and the contractor.

Speaking at the same occasion, one of the beneficiaries, Ms. Sara Tsaes, expressed her gratitude towards the government for making it possible for her to own a house where she and her family will celebrate their Christmas and live happily. She noted that her house was designed to accommodate people with disabilities like her son.



Hon. Neville Andre, Hon. Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele, beneficiary with her son and Hon. Erastus Uutoni

THE 24TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS

SWAKOPMUND - The 24th Annual Meeting of the Council of Traditional Leaders was officially opened by His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, on 13 November 2023 in Swakopmund. The President's speech was delivered by the Vice President H.E. Dr. Nangolo Mbumba. Among others, the President expressed his concern about the mushrooming of traditional authorities, and ongoing leadership succession disputes which create fragmentation and division amongst the people and are contrary to the spirit of One Namibia, One Nation.

“Unfortunately, on numerous occasions, Government is dragged into the midst of these avoidable disputes, which not only cause divisions among communities, but is also time consuming, taking necessary time and resources which would best be served on matters of priority, such as the war against poverty and disease,” the President noted.

Speaking at the same occasion, Hon. Erastus Uutoni, the Minister of Urban and Rural Development echoed the concern of the President and urged traditional leaders to ensure that customary laws are clear on key issues such as succession, to avoid disputes when there is a leadership vacancy. The Minister lamented that the investigation of leadership disputes by the Government places a huge financial burden on the State and needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

The Chairperson of the Council of Traditional Leaders, Gaob Immanuel #Nu-Axa /Gaseb, recognised the ongoing support that the Council, Traditional Leaders and authorities have been receiving from the President and the Government in general.

“We are adamant that the existing pending legal challenges of chieftainship succession, which the Council of Traditional Leaders is enduring, will not be left pending but will remain an integral task for our Government to revise strategies on how better to overcome such challenges” Gaob Gaseb said.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE TSANDI ANNUAL TRADE FAIR & EXPO 2023

TSANDI- The third Tsandi Annual Trade Fair & Expo 2023 was officially opened by the Prime Minister, Right Hon. Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, on 30 October 2023.

The Expo which was held under the theme: “Reviving the Local Economy, Cultural Diversity, Tourism and Enhancement for Adequate Service Delivery.” brought together representatives of private and public sectors to showcase their products and services as well as business opportunities prevalent in Tsandi and Omusati region at large.

Dr. Kuugongelwa-Amadhila was pleased to note the efforts made by regions and Local Authorities to harness the potential of business expositions to promote local development.

“I am pleased to note that this exposition is the third event that the local authority has held, demonstrating the commitment of the Local Authority to leverage the mechanism of the exposition to promote local businesses and the development of its town, following in the footsteps of other more established towns,” said Right Hon. Kuugongelwa-Amadhila.

On his part, Hon. Erastus Uutoni, the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, applauded the Tsandi Village council for the expo saying it will help market and grow Tsandi.

“The Tsandi Annual Trade Fair and Expo I believe, will boost the village local economy by creating a platform for local businesses and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and also to attract investors to come and invest in Tsandi in terms of property development,” said Hon. Uutoni.

The Minister encouraged the village council to do more in improving the physical infrastructure of the town by forging partnership with the private sector, saying it is the most meaningful way that local authorities can encourage economic growth.

The Chairperson for Tsandi Village Council, Hon. Councillor Selma Kadhila said that the event is held annually in order to boost local economic development, but the Council was not able to hold the event each year due to the negative impact of the COVID -19 pandemic.

FIFTY THREE (53) HOUSES DELIVERED UNDER THE INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING PROGRAMME, WINDHOEK



WINDHOEK- A total of 53 houses built under the Informal Settlement Upgrading Programme by the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) in partnership with the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, Khomas Regional Council and the City of Windhoek, were officially handed over by Hon. Erastus Uutoni, Minister of Urban and Rural Development at Greenwell Matongo on 06 December 2023.

To date, a total of 680 houses have been constructed in different informal settlements of Windhoek, through the Programme, with NHE and the City of Windhoek as the direct implementers. Hon. Uutoni emphasised the unwavering support and investment of the Government, through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development towards addressing the housing backlog. He referred to the various initiatives that are employed such as the Build Together Programme, Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia, Public Private Partnerships and the Mass Housing Development Programme.

“This is indeed a practical reality of changing the lives of our people in the informal settlement of Windhoek. We have made this intervention to make housing dreams come true, hence we will forever be proud to continuously and little by little restore our people’s dignity with this project,” Hon. Uutoni noted.

Speaking at the same occasion, Hon. Laura McLeod- Katjirua, Governor of Khomas Region, said that affordable housing remains a national priority, noting that the effective and efficient provision of housing, sanitation and rural development is affected by factors such as the cumbersome land delivery process, insufficient resources, land ownership and security of tenure and persisting housing backlog among others.

“Despite various mentioned challenges our government remains steadfast in its resort to scale up and mobilise national resources and efforts towards addressing the backlog in respect of service and land delivery, housing and availability of basic infrastructure to the people of Namibia especially the low and ultra-low income group,” the Governor said.

TRAINING OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON GOOD GOVERNANCE



ONGWEDIVA- The Association of Local Authorities in Namibia (ALAN) in conjunction with the Namibia University of Science and Technology hosted a three- day Good Governance Training aimed at capacitating local authority leaders with the necessary skills on good governance. The training was held at Ongwediva in Oshana Region from 21 to 23 November 2023.

Right Honorable Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, the Prime Minister, who officiated at the event, pointed out that Local Authorities play a leading role in fostering socio-economic development in their local areas, by enhancing efficient and effective services to their residents, and by attracting and nurturing business in their areas in order to support the growth of their respective economies and optimise opportunities for employment and reduce poverty among their residents.

“As such, it is critical that their governance systems are robust, with the capacity and resilience to deal with the complex challenges and rapidly adapt to change, and that their Human Resources possesses the necessary skills and competencies to ensure optimal performance of local authorities and effective public service delivery. It is thus most appropriate that this training program covers aspects of governance, leadership and project management,” the Prime Minister said.

Speaking at the same occasion, the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Hon. Erastus Uutoni, urged local authority Councillors to pay special attention to issues of land servicing and delivery, the provision of housing, informal settlement upgrading, good governance in local authorities and community engagement.

“I wish to remind you that the responsibilities entrusted upon you as leaders of your respective local authorities are of enormous magnitude as the people of Namibia depend on your decisions and performance. Therefore, you have a duty and responsibility to ensure that the services of your respective local authorities are delivered successfully and competently,” said Hon. Uutoni.

THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE /GAIO-DAMAN TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY OFFICE AND COMMUNITY HALL



KAMANJAB - Hon. Erastus Uutoni, the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, officially opened the /Gaio-Daman Traditional Authority office and a community hall at Anker settlement, Kunene Region. on 25 November 2023.

Hon. Uutoni said the Government finds it justified to finance the construction of offices for Traditional Authorities as this facilities allow traditional leaders to have a decent space to effectively perform their functions, and duties in the interest of of their communities. He pointed out that the community hall will enable members of the community of all ages, ethnicity, and socio-economic status to congregate and engage with each other on issues affecting them.

"This will help bridge gaps in our society by promoting inclusivity, diversity and facilitating inter-generational connections," said the Minister, adding that traditional leaders must avoid any acts of tribalism, regionalism and political interference that are detrimental to the development of communities and regions.



Hon. Erastus Uutoni the Deputy Chief, and senior traditional Councillors

Speaking at the same occasion, Chief Joseph Max Haraseb of the /Gaio-Daman expressed the gratitude of the /Gaio-Daman community for their own office, noting that there are other Traditional Authorities that do not have proper offices and yet to be assisted.

"Let us safeguard our property and also pray for the safety of our property because, as we all know, this area is prone to earthquakes and we need divine protection against these frequent earthquakes," he said.

Chief Haraseb expressed his wish and dream for the /Gaio-Daman customary land rights and borders to expand and also include the area of #Khanubes and Paresis which he said is ancestral land.



The /Gaio-Daman Community Hall.

OVER 100 HOUSES BUILT BY NHE OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER



OKAHAO- In keeping with its housing delivery mandate, the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) constructed 50 houses in Omuthiya, 24 in Ondangwa and 70 in Okahao during the month of November 2023.

Speaking at the handing over ceremonies, Hon. Erastus Uutoni, the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, said that despite enormous challenges, the Government and its agencies such as NHE continues to employ different interventions to scale up the delivery of housing in the country. Other interventions employed are the Build Together Programme, Shack Dwellers Federation, Informal Settlement Upgrading, the Mass Housing Development Programme and the Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).



"It is for this reason that we are making use of multiple interventions in addressing housing needs, taking cognizance of the fact that different people are affected differently by the prevailing economic environment. It is ideally desirable that there should be a variety of housing products for different categories of people, not only for those with the financial capacity to acquire houses in the upper end of the market. In fact, government interventions should prioritize housing needs of those who are finding it most hard to cater for themselves the ultra-ultra-low income earners of our society," said Hon. Uutoni.

On her part, the Chairperson of the National Housing Enterprise Board of Directors, Ms. Toska Sem stated that NHE is mandated to build and finance quality and affordable housing for Namibian inhabitants. She said the enterprise is working tirelessly to guarantee the efficient and effective delivery of this important national mandate as evidenced by the handing over of the 144 houses in different towns.

"As the champion or the Government agency responsible for housing in Namibia, it is pleasing to note that these projects involved Namibians from the start to finish and benefited a lot of families," Sem said.

Over 50 Namibians were employed during the construction phase of these projects.

CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS URGED TO EXERCISE DISCIPLINE AND PROFESSIONALISM



WINDHOEK- Hon. Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele, Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development has encouraged Local Authorities Chief Fire Officers to be exemplary, disciplined and always professional in their daily conducts.

Hon. !Nawases-Taeyele made these remarks at a meeting with Local Authorities Chief Fire Officers and Officials hosted by the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development on 07 December 2023 in Windhoek.

"We are extremely proud of the exemplary manner in which you as Chief Fire Fighters represent your various Councils and service the community diligently and the confidence with which the young men and women are being able to save lives and property of our people," she said.

The Deputy Minister urged local authorities and emergency officials in particular to ensure that the fire stations and fire-fighting engines that have been procured and donated by the Government to local authorities are properly maintained and fire-fighting personnel are appointed and equipped with the right skills to effectively operate the vehicles and equipment, and to skillfully respond to emergencies when they occur.

The meeting was aimed at exchanging views and securing consensus and solutions to identified shared challenges as well as standard emergency operational procedures. The meeting was attended by 20 Chief Fire Officers from 20 Local Authorities.



Chief Fire Officers

WELCOME ON BOARD



Hon. Eveline !Nawases-Taeyele
Deputy Minister



Mr. Alec Boois
Personal Assistant to the Deputy Minister



Ms. El-zanne Feris
Private Secretary to the Deputy Minister



Ms. Selma Elago
Senior Accountant: FHRAIT ,



Ms. Victoria Haipala
Development Planner: Rural
Development



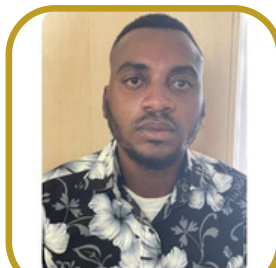
Mr. Erasmus Sheelekeni
System Administrator
Division: IT



Mr. Piet Carstens
Administrative Officer:
Registry



Ms. Maria Kalofu
Administrative
Officer:Registry



Mr. Devan Rughalo
Administrative Officer
Division: Transport



Mr. Nicol Silimwe
Transport Officer



Mr. Herman Iita
Transport Officer



Ms. Jeanette Jossop
Cleaner



Ms. Dorkas Hengari
Cleaner



Mr. Jonas Iimbili
Messenger: Main registry



Ms. Annastasia Johannes
Cleaner





Republic of Namibia

Ministry of Urban and Rural Development

Customer Service Charter

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

The quality of service we can provide to you depends on various issues including your input, objectivity and cooperation. We therefore request you to:

- Be honest and timely in providing the required information to us;
- Familiarize yourself, to the extent possible, with the policies, laws, regulations and procedures governing what we do;
- Treat our staff members with the necessary respect and inform us if and why you are not satisfied; and
- Give us your comments and suggestions on how we can serve you better, preferably in writing (Website feedback form).

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