



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Ministry of Urban and Rural Development

REMARKS

BY

HONOURABLE ERASTUS UTONI (MP), MINISTER OF

URBAN & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE ALIENATION
OF HOUSES AND ERVEN**

20 NOVEMBER 2024

REHOBOTH

Thank you Director of Ceremonies,

- **Hon. Ministers and Members of Parliament Present;**
- **Honourable Salomon April, Governor of the Hardap Region;**
- **Honourable Regional Councillors Present:**
- **Your Worship, Amanda Groenewaldt, Mayor of Rehoboth Town Council**
- **All Local Authority Council Members, Present;**
- **Strategic Executives and Senior Officials government officials Present;**
- **Invited Technical Partners and Guests;**
- **Residents and beneficiaries of Rehoboth Town;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

A very Good morning to you all.

I am honoured to stand before you today to deliver a remark at this important ceremony that marks the alienation and transfer of ownership of properties (houses and erven) under the Old Kaptain Hans Diergard Raad here at Rehoboth.

I am particularly excited because this is indeed a day and event that is long awaited by the community of Rehoboth. Finally, we have arrived after the many consultative meetings starting with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Governor, the Town Council and the Ministry.

Let me, from the onset; applaud everyone including Cabinet Ministers, for taking a decision to approve the Alienation and transfer of ownership of the said properties. This is a positive response to Government's drive to narrow imbalances in the development programmes rolled out to members of our society.

Director of Ceremony

If we recall, the *Alienation Scheme* was introduced in 1992 and for the lessees to qualify, should have all municipal debts on the property settled. The purpose of the scheme was initiated to help low-income groups and disadvantaged member of the community also to own own properties.

As a result of the forced relocation of the people, the previous regime constructed the effected houses for people to relocate into free of charge, and the houses were not for sale. Furthermore, the regime (Rehoboth Government) was expected to transfer these houses to the beneficiaries to provide them with title deeds as proof of ownership, however that process has never happen until this very day.

In that connection, there was also a declaration by the then Baster Kapteins Raad that residents be allocated houses and erven in the following order:

- 1) **51 Houses – under the old Captain Hans Diergaardt**
- 2) **60 Banhoff Station Erven**
- 3) **149 open erven where informal shacks are now constructed**
- 4) **349 unregistered Block E brick houses**

Therefore, Cabinet's approval to donate and transfer these properties under the Alienation Scheme of Government will mean that:

The proposed alienation and transfer of ownership will help the occupants to attain the legal ownership of their properties. Again, the write-off of accumulated irrecoverable debts will enable 90% of the beneficiaries which have been disconnected from basic service due to generation debt to be reconnected to municipal services. These houses we are informed, will be fitted with pre-paid electricity and water meters that will prevent the accumulation of future debts.

Given the successful implementation of this process, I strongly believe that the Town Council will be able to start levying and benefiting from rate and taxes and the money will be invested in land servicing and delivery for other needy residents.

Distinguished Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is really commendable that your Government through Cabinet has decided to write off generation debt incurred by beneficiaries of alienation

Scheme amounting to N\$ 26 654 010.86 (**Twenty Six Million Six Hundred and Fifty Four Thousand and Ten Namibia Dollar and Eighty Six Cents**). Furthermore, the transfer costs will be borne by the Rehoboth Town Council to the amount of N\$59 000.00. Can we give a round of applause to your Central, Regional and Local Government for the thoughtful decision!

Today, is not a day for us to make long speeches but a day that we should celebrate the fact that 609 beneficiary will be permanently allocated these properties that they will own and called it home without hesitation. Allow me to reiterate my sentiments as I have yesterday during the NALAO AGM function that the current challenges that we are facing at the local levels are not isolated, they are deeply linked with national and regional priorities. That is why intergovernmental cooperation between all levels of government is vital. It is in that connection, that the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development remains committed to working closely with local authorities, regional councils to ensure that government policies are harmonized and our efforts are aligned.

The provision of housing is more than just a basic need, it is a cornerstone of our national development. Therefore, as we continue to address the housing challenges we face, I want us to take into consideration that we are not only building homes, but also nurturing communities and fostering a sense of belonging and pride among our residents. Together, let us continue to work towards a Namibia where everyone has a place to call home.

In conclusion, allow me to appreciate role of the Office of the Governor in making this event a reality. I also thank the leadership and management

of Rehoboth Town Council for a job well done and hereby wish to encourage Her Worship the Mayor and the leadership to continue to identify make more land available for the low to middle income earners of our society. I continue to thank each and everyone who directly or indirectly contributed to this event and for time to be here with us today.

Finally, while applauding you all for this wonderful initiative, I will fail in my duty if I do not encourage all eligible voted to go out and exercise your democratic right on the 27 November 2024 to cast your vote for the leaders of your choice for the next five years.

With these few words, I thank you.