



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**AT THE OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF SHACK DWELLERS
FEDERATION OF NAMIBIA HOUSES- ORANJEMUND BENEFICIARIES
AND GROUND BREAKING OF NEW ERVEN AND NEW EXTENSIONS 6,
7 AND 11**

ORANJEMUND

MONDAY, 06 MAY 2024

Thank you Director of Ceremonies:

- **Honourable Aletha Frederick, Governor of //Kharas Region**
- **Your Worship Hon. Elias Kasemba, the Mayor of Oranjemund Town Council;**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councilors present;**
- **Mr. Charles Kakuru, Acting Chief Executive Officer of Oranjemund Town Council;**
- **Coordinators and Members of the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia and the Namibia Housing Action Group;**
- **Senior Government Officials present;**
- **All Stakeholders and Sponsors;**
- **Men and Women in Uniforms;**
- **Distinguished Invited Guests;**
- **Members of the community;**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Ladies & Gentlemen;**

A very Good Afternoon to you all.

It is once again my honour to be among you this afternoon at this significant event, where we not only hand over the keys to new homes but also break ground for additional housing projects here in Oranjemund.

This gathering therefore signifies a re-affirmation of our shared resolve, collectively as a nation and as individual caring citizens, that all citizens of this Republic have a right to decent and affordable housing and shelter.

For that matter, Government recognizes everyone's right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing and the provision of basic infrastructure and services remains one of the top our priorities at all levels of Government whether Central, Regional and Local levels. This is why as a nation we have made the provision of land and access to decent housing as one of the key development priorities as encapsulated in our Vision 2030, National Development Plans and the Harambee Prosperity Plan II.

Director of Proceeding;

Oranjemund has a rich history and a vibrant community, but it is no secret that the town faces significant housing shortages. This challenge requires a concerted effort from both public and private sectors, as well as from community stakeholders.

I am pleased to see that the Oranjemund Town Council has partnered with the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN) to tackle this issue. However, it is clear that they cannot do it alone. To truly address the housing shortage, we must all join hands and pool our resources.

I am reliably informed that 50 houses were completed in 2021, a significant achievement that reflects the hard work and commitment of everyone involved. Today, we recognize these accomplishments while also celebrating the allocation of 85 new erven to the SDFN for future housing projects. This is a critical step toward ensuring that every family has a safe place to call home.

I hereby wish to encourage the SDFN to maintain its commitment to delivering quality homes to its beneficiaries. The work we do in housing development is not just about constructing buildings; it is about building hope, stability, and opportunity for families.

In addition to these housing projects, I am thrilled to highlight the efforts of the Oranjemund Town Council in servicing land for new developments. In **Extension 10**, about 327 erven have been serviced, with 227 designated for residential use. This will help alleviate overcrowding and offer new housing prospects.

In **Extension 6**, about 75 erven have been set aside for business and industrial purposes, fostering economic growth and creating jobs. **Extension 7** is dedicated to middle- to high-income housing, with 104 erven available.

Finally, **Extension 11**, designated for low-cost housing, comprises of 288 erven supported by N\$10 million from the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development and an additional N\$1.892 million from the National Planning Commission in the FY 2023/2024.

Distinguished Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

These developments I am informed, are part of the broader Informal Settlement Upgrading and Decongestion Plan, designed to address housing and decongestion challenges in Oranjemund. I therefore, commend the Oranjemund Town Council's Commitment to this plan and I am pleased to announce that the Council's Low-Cost Housing Scheme has been approved, with 56 houses set to be built in Phase 1, fully funded by the Oranjemund Town Council backed with **N\$ 6 million**.

In that light, the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia has been appointed by the Oranjemund Town Council for the construction of these houses. These initiatives aim to create a safe and thriving environment for all residents.

Therefore, as we hand over the keys to new homes owners and break ground on additional erven and extensions, let us appreciate the teamwork and dedication that have made this possible. I thus extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in this endeavor, the Oranjemund Town Council, the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia, and all our partners in the public and private sectors. Your efforts are making a real difference.

Director of proceeding;

In conclusions, allow me to appreciate the leadership of Oranjemund Town Council for assisting government in the provision of housing to our people. I therefore encourage His Worship the Mayor and the leadership to continue to make more land available for the low to middle income earners of our society.

Finally, I wish to assure you that the Government of Namibia through our Ministry of Urban and Rural Development is on the move and remains committed to the task of delivering affordable housing to as many Namibians as possible.

Having said that, I now declare and take pleasure in officially handing over the completed houses to their owners here in the Oranjemund. Also I declare the official ground breaking of additional 85 housing units to be constructed.

I thank You.