



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**AT THE CITY OF WINDHOEK'S MASS STREET NAMING/
RENAMING CEREMONY**

FRIDAY, 17 MAY 2024

- Honourable Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Governor of the Khomas Region
- Your Worship, Queen Omagano Kamati, Mayor of the City of Windhoek;
- All Regional and Local Authority councilors present;
- Gaob Dr. Justus ǁGaroëb and your delegation;
- Esteemed Honourees and Representatives;
- Reverent Bock, Secretary General of the ELCRN Church;
- All Strategic Executives present;
- Distinguished invited Guests and various cultural, arts, and heritage associations present;
- Members of the Media;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;
- **A very Good morning / Good afternoon to you all**

I am indeed honoured to be among you today and for having been invited to form part and deliver brief remarks at this important occasion that marks the Windhoek's Mass Street Naming and re-naming ceremony.

From the onset, I would like to applaud the Windhoek Municipal Council for this wonderful initiative to name and renaming some of the streets in terms of Section 94 (1) (f) of the Local Authorities Act, (Act 23 of 1992), as amended. This function is performed to ensure that all properties in Windhoek are allocated official addresses as well as to ensure continuous urban navigation for our residents, visitors, and businesses alike.

Director of our proceedings;

Street names help us figure out where we are, talk about where we've been, and ascertain whether we are headed in the right direction. They are a symbol of the people, places, events, or things that not only place us geographically but also politically, socially, historically. The naming or renaming of streets and places is also an important element of service delivery, as it promotes legibility and facilitates the effective delivery of services such as water and electricity, emergency services and policing functions, for example.

In that light, the naming and renaming of streets and places after persons who have made an impact on the development of and the local authority and the country at large is a **real** reason we are gathered here today! By that, we are fostering the foundations towards establishing a legacy that boldly embraces our nation's painful history, in remembrance and reverence of the men, women and children who paved the way for us here today.

The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development hereby recognizes the importance of this ceremony and gathering that serves as a platform to reflect and re-assert our roles as leaders within our respective communities to tell our stories; sing our praises and emulate our predecessors' convictions, innovations, and achievements, towards the continuous development of our country.

This is indeed a good gesture from the leadership and engage more of this types of initiatives. Also, I want to see that we balance the list of recognitions with those that are still alive so that we cannot be judge to only recognize people when they passed on. But I am glad that one of those to be honoured amongst us today is still alive in the presence of **Gaob Dr. Justice Garoeb** and that we are here to take a moment and appreciate how far we have come as a nation and who best to demonstrate this than all the honourees we have the privilege of recognising here today.

Distinguished Invited Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Allow me at this juncture to address the honourees, their representatives, families, and friends being recognized here today, that I extend my heartfelt and profound appreciation for the admirable efforts, bravery, sacrifices, commitment, and convictions for which you undoubtedly deserve the highest praise and reverence.

I thank you for reminding us of our collective duty and consciousness, to stand-up for what is right, just, and noble. Today is **your** day and we honour you wholeheartedly.

Allow me in conclusion, to use this opportunity appeal to all residence of our beautiful capital city to always make it your ultimate responsibility to honour your municipal services on time to assist council to re-invest in the development of the Windhoek especially in the informal settlement. I thus request that you continue to engage one another as council leadership and community on every aspect that concerns development and other related matters.

With those few words, **May your legacies resonate with all of us here as we reflect on the impact that you and your predecessors' contributions have made on us.**

Congratulations!

And I thank you.