



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**KEYNOTE STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HON. EVELYN !NAWASES - TAEYELE,  
DEPUTY MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**AT THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF 56  
AFFORDABLE HOUSES UNDER THE ORANJEMUND TOWN  
COUNCIL SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAMME.**

**ORANJEMUND**

**WEDNESDAY, 03rd SEPTEMBER 2025**

Thank you Director of Proceedings,

- Honourable Dawid Gertze, Governor of the //Kharas Region;
- Honourable Lazarus Nangolo, Regional Councillor of Oranjemund Constituency;
- His Worship. Cllr Elias Kasemba the Mayor of Oranjemund Town;
- Honourable Regional and Local Authorities Councillors present;
- Representatives of the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia;
- Traditional and spiritual leaders present;
- Senior Government officials present
- Member of the Security Sectors present;
- Captains of Industries and Local Businesses,
- Distinguished Invited Guests,
- Fellow Residents and Beneficiaries,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good morning to you all,

I am honoured this morning, for having been accorded the opportunity to officiate at this important ceremony that marks the handover of 56 affordable houses under the Oranjemund Town Council's Social Housing Scheme. Today at this occasion, we are about to bless 56 households with decent shelter as the government wish to give our people a dignified living and a place called home.

I wish from the onset, to re-iterate that Government, through the Local Authorities Act of 1992, has entrusted local authorities with the responsibility to spearhead development and service delivery at grassroot level. Therefore, housing and land provision are central to this mandate, as they form the foundation of sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment.

**Director of Ceremony;**

Under the newly launched National Development Plan 6 (NDP6), Government has identified housing and land delivery as critical pillars in addressing urbanisation challenges, reducing inequalities, and uplifting the living standards of our citizens. This handover we are witnessing and celebrate today, is therefore not an isolated event, but part of a bigger national agenda to accelerate housing delivery across all 14 regions of this country.

Also, it is worth mentioning that the revised 2023 National Housing Policy (NHP) provides for accelerated land servicing, housing for various income categories/typologies as well as informal settlements upgrading which will include spatial planning, land servicing and housing support including subsidies.

Therefore, Government in that regard, recognizes everyone's right to an adequate standard of living, including adequate housing and the provision of basic infrastructure and services remains one of our top priorities at all levels of Government whether Central, Regional and Local. We are committed to continue to support the work of community based organisations such as the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia, the Development Workshop Namibia and others who has demonstrated their commitment and ability to contribute to the national drive to provide affordable housing and proper sanitation.

The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development recognises and is aware of the challenges that many towns and village councils are faced with such as limited land, rising construction costs, rapid urbanisation, and competing financial demands. But yet the Oranjemund Town Council's have investment of over N\$6 million in this project despite the challenges. This demonstrate that we can achieve anything when government, communities, and development partners work collectively. I therefore, wish to commend the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia, the Council, and all stakeholders involved for making this vision a reality.

### **Distinguished Invited Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

I must emphasise that accommodation remains a major issue in most of our local authorities let alone the town of Oranjemund. This is why it remains a collective responsibility of both private and public sectors to play thier part in developing our towns, particularly in the provision of housing and related infrastructure. By joining hands with Council and Government, the private sector can unlock Oranjemund's potential, attract investment, and ensure that every resident has access to decent as well as affordable shelter.

I will fail in my duties Ladies and Gentlemen if I do not reiterate Her Excellency the President's call to all Namibians to embrace national unity and focus on economic development as expressed at the Heroes' Day commemoration in Katima Mulilo. The President also outlined her administration's key priorities, which include youth empowerment, industrialization, and combating corruption. Therefore the president highlighted the importance of moving forward as a united nation to achieve shared goals of prosperity and progress for all.

As a custodian Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, we are also very much concern about the power struggle and disunity within many of our local authorities whereby councilors are at each other throats and represent the interest of their political affiliations. By doing so, the electorates suffers and does not get the necessary and basic services. Therefore, I urge all local authorities' councillors and the community equally to strive toward a united force that stands for a greater purpose of development.

The current administration under her able leadership Her Excellency the President, has given us a tall order as we are expected to construct and bring the much needed municipal services closer to the people. Therefore, there should be no time to waste with politics of blame game while there is a major task at hand. We need to deliver and we can only do that, if we work together as a nation despite our difference in race, colour, political affiliations and religious association.

Having said that, while I congratulate all recipients of the 56 houses, allow me to indicate that, today you are among the chosen to receive a unique opportunity to gradually become property owners while safeguarding your future. I am reliably informed that these homes are being allocated under a rent-to-buy agreement, so please accept this kind gesture with both hands.

Therefore, I urge you the owners of your new homes, to make it your personal priority to honour your monthly repayment, take care of the properties, and comply with the conditions of this programme. Your discipline and responsibility will determine not only your own success, but also the sustainability of such projects for others still waiting to benefit.

**Director of ceremony;**

**In conclusion,** I wish to reiterate that the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development remains steadfast in implementing policies and programmes that will make housing more affordable and accessible, particularly for low- and middle-income earners. But government cannot do it alone. We thus call on the private sector, local businesses, and development partners to join forces with us in unlocking land, mobilising resources, and building more homes.

Allow me to appreciate the leadership of Oranjemund Municipality for this initiative and I encourage, His Worship Mayor and the leadership to continue to make more land available to intensify these kinds of projects as well as smart partnership. 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, we are not only building homes, but also nurture communities and foster a sense of belonging and pride among our residents.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** the journey ahead is still long, but together we can make housing delivery a lasting and success story for Namibia. Let Oranjemund be an example of what is possible when leadership, vision, and community come together for development.

**Finally, I** congratulations beneficiaries once again and may these homes bring you pride, comfort, and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

I now have the honour to declare the **handover of 56 affordable houses under the oranjemund town council social housing programme** as officially handed

I thank You.