



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

## **STATEMENT**

BY

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MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL HANDING OVER OF SIXTY-  
FOUR (64) HOUSES CONSTRUCTED BY THE NATIONAL HOUSING  
ENTERPRISE (NHE)

THURSDAY, 06 FEBRUARY 2025

ONDANGWA

Thank you, Director of Ceremonies

- Honorable Elia Irimari, Governor of Oshana Region
- Your Worship Councilor Paavo Amwele, Mayor of Ondangwa Town
- Honorable Leonard Negonga, Regional Councilor for Ondangwa Urban Constituency
- Your Worship the Mayors of Oniipa Town, Oshakati Town and Ongwediva Town
- Other Regional and Local Authority Councilors present
- Chairperson of the National Housing Enterprise Board of Directors, Mrs Toska Sem and other Directors present
- Mr. Gisbertus Mukulu, Chief Executive Officer of the National Housing Enterprise
- The Chief Executive Officer of Ondangwa Town Council and other CEOs of other Towns present
- The contractor, Kambwa Construction
- Representatives of financial institutions
- Distinguished invited guests and homeowners
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here and wish to thank the Board and management of NHE and its partner, the Ondangwa Town Council, for bringing us together to witness the handing over of houses here today.

Director of proceedings

In November 2023, I was here in Ondangwa to hand over 24 houses built by NHE and on that occasion I challenged NHE and the Town Council to continue to work together and to build more houses. Today we are here to witness the handing over of 64 houses at this site, and I am very happy that a call that I have made a year and 4 months ago was heeded to and has come to fruition. Thank you, Madame Toska Sem, the Chairperson of NHE Board and your team as well as Your Worship Hon. Amwele and your team for heeding my call and for your result-oriented leadership.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished invited guests

A house is one of the most important possessions in person's life. It is not just a physical bricks and mortar building, but it functions as a home. The importance of a house and a home is summed in the following quote:

*“Your home and family are the nest, the center of your life, the hub from which all your daily experience extend.” End of quote.*

For a house to fulfil this purpose, it must entail or offer security of tenure and basic services and must be affordable.

Director of proceedings

Housing is and will continue to be one of the key national development priorities as it is an important vehicle for addressing poverty and inequality as well as for bringing about social harmony, economic advancement and ensuring political stability.

Our presence here today is a re-affirmation of our shared recognition and 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.

Our position and actions in this regard are guided by and are in line with our resolve at international and continental and national levels such as Africa's Agenda 2063 where our desire is for the "people of Africa to have access to affordable and decent housing including all the basic necessities of life such as water, sanitation, energy, public transport and ICT". Agenda 2063 also recognises security of tenure, land use planning, urban management systems, and improving conditions in informal settlements.

At international level, we have the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) where, Namibia and other members of United Nations have committed themselves to ensure and make "cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". It is recognised that housing is cross-cutting in nature, and it is a key instrument in achieving other Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to the above, we are also guided by the 'New Urban Agenda', to which Namibia and other African governments have ascribed and at the centre of this Agenda is that housing is a central and key deliverable and one of the interlinked essentials to 'leave no one behind'.

At the national, the provision of and access to decent housing is one of the key development priorities as encapsulated in our Vision 2030, National Development Plans, the Harambee Prosperity Plans, our revised 2023 National Housing Policy and the SWAPO Party Manifesto Implementation Plan.

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen

While inadequate and unequal access to housing and urban land is a challenge, it can however also be turned into an opportunity and to galvanise unity of purpose and collective action and joint investment by the Government, the private sector and the community. As a certain Robert South has said and I quote: *“Problems can become opportunities when the right people come together”*.

In other words, national developmental challenges and goals such as housing and urban land delivery can be addressed through concerted efforts from both the public and other sectors of the society, as demonstrated by this project.

There is an African Proverb that says and I quote: *“The load is lighter when two people carry it”*.

Director of proceedings

Ladies and gentlemen

The successful execution of this project demonstrates a mutual beneficial partnership between the NHE and local authorities like Ondangwa Town Council, and I therefor again challenge NHE and the Ondangwa Town Council to continue and expand their partnership.

In the same vein, I urge other local authority councils to also embrace and work with NHE and the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia by availing affordable land to them for the construction of houses that are affordable to our most needy people, the low and ultra-low income earners. This will help us to address the informal settlements where our fellow countrywomen and men reside without security of tenure, basic services and proper shelter.

I wish to also take this opportunity to thank Kambwa Trading and Construction, the contractor that was awarded and completed this project, I am told on time and budget.

To the beneficiaries, I am very happy for you and I hope the houses that have been provided to you under this project meet your needs and will help you to realise your dreams and ambitions in life. Please take good care of the houses and be caring citizens by honouring your home loan repayment so that the money that you pay can be used to help other needy Namibians to also acquire their homes.

May we continue to work together to develop our country and to make the dreams of our people a reality as per the inspiring words of our departed beloved Founding President H.E. Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, and I quote him: *“A people united, striving to achieve a common good for all members of the society, will always emerge victorious”*, end of quote.

Thank you all for your kind attention