



Ministry of Urban and Rural Development

E-Newsletter

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The Ministry launches its Strategic Plan



Hon. Sankwasa James Sankwasa and Hon. Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele pictured during the launch of the strategic plan

WINDHOEK - The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, has launched its Strategic Plan 2025/2026-2029/2030, setting the trail for Namibia's urban and rural transformation. The launch took place on 18 March 2026 in Windhoek.

Officiating at the event, Minister of Urban and Rural Development Hon. Sankwasa James Sankwasa stated that the plan aligns with Vision 2030, the National Development Plan (NDP6), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure inclusive, sustainable, and equitable development.

“This Strategic Plan represents an important milestone in our collective efforts to advance inclusive governance, balanced development, and sustainable communities across our country.”

The Minister noted that in the coming years, the Ministry will focus on set strategic objectives and programmes aimed at transforming urban and rural landscapes in Namibia.

These includes strengthening regional and local governance systems through enhancing institutional capacity, improving financial management, and promoting accountable and transparent leadership at regional and local levels.

Hon. Sankwasa highlighted that the plan also prioritises the advancement of decentralisation and participatory governance, by progressively devolving functions and resources to regional and local authorities, enabling communities to actively shape their own development trajectories.

He further emphasised that the successful implementation of this Strategic Plan will require strong collaboration across all spheres of government as well as with all stakeholders.

“Regional councils, local authorities, traditional leaders, development partners, civil society and the private sector all have an essential role to play,” said the Minister.

Hon. Sankwasa dedicates Best Exceptional Achievement Award in Housing to Namibians



Hon. Sankwasa receiving the award



Management and staff members welcoming Hon. Minister back home

ABUJA - Hon. Sankwasa James Sankwasa, has been awarded the award of Best Exceptional Achievement in Southern Africa in Housing and Urban Development. The award was received at the Africa Housing Award Ceremony held on 12 December 2025 in Abuja, Nigeria.

The accolade recognised his outstanding contribution to land identification, serviced land delivery, and improvements in housing and sanitation within just eight months of his appointment. Hon. Sankwasa dedicated the award to the Namibian people, acknowledging them as his **“ultimate appointing authority”** through their continued voting and support for the ruling party. He pledged to continue serving the nation with humility and commitment.

“This recognition belongs to all Namibian people,” he said.

He further expressed gratitude to Her Excellency, Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia, for entrusting him with the portfolio of addressing the much pressing needs of the Namibian people.

“My penultimate gratitude goes to Her Excellency, Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia, for entrusting me with the portfolio of addressing the much pressing needs of land identification and delivery of affordable serviced land, decent housing, sanitation, water, and electricity,” he stated.

He said that, the President’s unwavering support enabled him to achieve exceptional performance within a short period.

Additionally, the Minister acknowledged the support of the Ministry’s officials, housing development partners and private sector.

“In my continued endeavour to respond to the housing needs of our people, I am supported by my able and committed team, the officials in the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, housing development partners, and private sectors,” said Hon. Sankwasa.

Otjiwarongo informal settlement access road upgraded to bitumen standard



Deputy Minister Hon. Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele

The Deputy Minister noted that the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development values and feel proud to support projects and initiatives that contributes to national developmental agenda, adding that progress only occur when local leadership takes its responsibilities seriously, plans thoroughly, and remains willing to do the hard work that development demands.

“The projects initiated here today, shows exactly what is meant by inclusive and organised development which loudly speaks of a community that understands its challenges well enough to respond to them in a coordinated way,” said Hon. !Nawases-Taeyele.

OTJIWARONGO - The Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development Hon. Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele, officiated the groundbreaking ceremony for upgrading the access road, leading to the Otjiwarongo informal settlement to bitumen standard on 02 December 2025.

The project, which comprises the construction of 1.8 kilometre access road, bulk sewer infrastructure, bulk water supply systems, the installation of water meters, and the development of a park that represents to a cost at municipality to approximately of N\$57,370,000.

Speaking at the event, Hon. !Nawases-Taeyele commended the outgoing Council leadership for guiding the initiatives to the stage of implementation.

“I believe you have laid the foundation that provides the leaders who will succeed you with clear direction and strong momentum for further and ongoing development”.



Symbolic groundbreaking



Attendees in a jovial mood at the groundbreaking ceremony

HON. SANKWASA CALLS ON COLLABORATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP



Hon. Sankwasa James Sankwasa with the students

Photo credit: Namibian Students Union

WINDHOEK - The Minister of Urban and Rural Development Hon. Sankwasa James Sankwasa on 11 March 2026 addressed the gathering of the Union of Namibia’s General Students Assembly in Windhoek.

In his address, Hon. Sankwasa advised that the Assembly should not only be seen as a gathering of students, but as a congregation of future policymakers, innovators, entrepreneurs, educators, and custodians of Namibia’s destiny.

He added that the students’ ideas, courage, and determination will shape the socio-economic and political trajectory of the nation for generations to come.

The Minister called on youth leaders and students’ organizations to work together in good faith for a common national purpose, he further remarked that the future of Namibia will not be built through division among young people, but through unity of purpose, mutual respect, and constructive collaboration.

He called on young people to avoid unnecessary divisions and recognize that, despite organizational differences, they share a common destiny as the future leaders of Namibia.

“A stronger Namibia will emerge when it’s young people choose unity over fragmentation, dialogue over hostility, and collaboration over conflict,” Hon. Sankwasa said.

Hon. Sankwasa observed that for a democracy as young as Namibia’s youth participation in democratic processes is not optional, rather it is absolutely indispensable. He further encouraged the youth and student leaders to actively participate in democratic activities, to debate ideas, research on issues on national interests, and to advocate for their rights and interests through recognized and lawful structures of governance.

The Minister stressed that Namibia’s development must not be geographically exclusive, it must be inclusive, balanced, and equitable. He challenged graduates to not only seek employment but to become creators of employment opportunities.

The Students General Assembly brought together student leaders from The Namibian National Students Organization (NANSO), the African Students Association (NASA), and student leaders from across the countries institutions of higher learning.

HON. SANKWASA CALLS FOR BOARD INTERVENTIONS TO INCREASE NHE OUTPUT

Hon. Sankwasa James Sankwasa and Ms. Toska Sem at the AGM

WINDHOEK - The Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Hon. Sankwasa James Sankwasa, has called for stronger intervention from board members of the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) to accelerate housing delivery, despite ongoing challenges.

Speaking at the NHE Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Windhoek on 27 February 2026, the Minister expressed concern over the slow pace of housing development during the period under review. He noted that only 191 houses were completed out of a target of 2,000 units across five towns, highlighting the urgent need for improved performance.

“The SWAPO Party Manifesto, which serves as our developmental directive, is clear on the volumes we aim to achieve in terms of housing delivery,” Hon. Sankwasa said.

He pointed to several key challenges facing NHE, including a significant housing deficit among low-income earners and the limited availability of affordable land. The Minister stressed that addressing these issues requires the involvement of additional stakeholders to help restructure housing delivery in the country. He further emphasized the need for a collective approach, particularly with local authorities, who are the custodians of land.

Hon. Sankwasa reiterated his longstanding position that it is illogical for government entities to sell land to one another, especially when the goal is to develop affordable housing for the citizens who elected them into office. The NHE also ended the financial year with a clean audit for the third consecutive year, reflecting continued improvement in its financial governance.

At the same time, the Minister commended NHE management for achieving a significant profit, driven by financial recapitalization and the expansion of its loan book, which now exceeds N\$1.1 billion. He described the transfer of properties to homeowners and the registration of new mortgage bonds as encouraging signs of progress.

However, he cautioned that while it is positive that the entity can meet its financial obligations through loan repayments, it is not desirable for a large portion of its revenue to be directed toward optional development expenses.

MURD Hosts Induction Workshop for Newly Elected Councillors



Hon. Sankwasa James Sankwasa addressing participants at the induction workshop

The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) recently hosted several induction workshops for newly elected Regional and Local Authority Councillors, as well as Chief Regional Officers, Chief Executive Officers, management cadres, and administrative staff.

The regional and local authority councillors were elected during the national elections held on 26 November 2025. To ensure smooth delivery of presentations, the induction programme was organised into seven clusters: Rundu, Oudangwa, two groups in Swakopmund, Otjiwarongo, Mariental, and Gobabis, from January to March 2026

The workshops aimed at strengthening participants' capacity to effectively manage their institutions and deliver quality services to their communities. It also introduced newly elected councillors to key issues in regional and local governance, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to run their councils



Participants pictured at the induction workshop in Oudangwa

Held under the theme, “Accountability as a Bedrock for Effective Governance to Achieve Effective Service Delivery in Regional and Local Authority Councils,” the workshop emphasised the importance of accountability in the public service.

Addressing participants, the Minister stated that the Ministry will continue to engage and consult on matters affecting regional and local government, including collaboration with traditional authorities. He further noted that the workshop helped in clarifying the Ministry’s mandate under the current administration, as directed by Her Excellency, President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, and Cabinet, who exercised the executive power in accordance with Article 27(2) of the Namibian Constitution:



Participants at the induction workshop in Swakopmund

“The executive power of the Republic of Namibia shall vest in the President and the Cabinet.”

The Minister emphasised that the executive power does not reside with Regional or Local Authority Councillors, nor with the councils themselves.

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Participants pictured during the induction workshop: Otjiwarongo

Hon. Sankwasa highlighted several key priority areas, including the creation of stable jobs and sustainable livelihood opportunities across all sectors of the economy to ensure inclusive development; the need to revisit and reactivate casual labour programmes such as food-for-work and/or cash-for-work initiatives to support unemployed citizens; the provision of decent, affordable housing and secure land tenure; the settlement of outstanding municipal accounts, including water bills, by all entities; the improvement of urban and regional road infrastructure,

with a focus to eliminate potholes; and directing all local authorities to compile and submit municipal accounts for pensioners and persons with disabilities for his office before the end of March 2026.



Director, Regional Local Government and Traditional Authorities Coordination, addressing participants at the induction workshop in Mariental

A total of 121 Regional Councillors and 380 Local Authority Councillors attended the combined induction workshops. Presentations were facilitated by representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister – Public Service Commission; Office of the Ombudsman; Ministry of Justice and Labour Relations; Ministry of Finance–Public Procurement Unit; Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM); the Municipality of Swakopmund; and Lüderitz Town Council.



Participants pictured at the induction workshop in Mariental



Participants pictured at the induction workshop in Rundu

MURD AND NSA LAUNCH NAMIBIA INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS BASELINE REPORT



Deputy Minister Hon. Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele, pictured with Governor of the Erongo Region, Hon. Nathalia /Goagoses, showcasing the recently launched Informal settlements baseline report

SWAKOPMUND – The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD), in partnership with the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), launched the Namibia Informal Settlements Baseline Report in Swakopmund on 25 February 2026.

The Baseline report supports the objectives of the Namibia Housing Information System and contributes to the consultation and allocation process for the 2026/2027 Financial Year under National Development Plan Six (NDP6), particularly in advancing targets related to spatial planning, land servicing, and housing delivery.

The report serves as a critical, evidence-based tool designed to inform national policy direction, strengthen strategic planning, and enhance coordinated interventions to address informal settlements across Namibia.

Officiating at the event, Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Hon. Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele, highlighted that the real value of the report lies in translating its findings into policy reforms, program design, institutional coordination, and resource mobilization for sustainable interventions.

“While today’s launch is a notable achievement, it is not an end in itself but rather a foundation upon which decisive action must be built to reduce informal settlements by 50% by the end of the 2028/29 Financial Year,” Hon. !Nawases-Taeyele stated.

Hon. !Nawases Taeyele emphasized that the launch marks a milestone in the government’s commitment to better understanding and transforming the living conditions of thousands of Namibians residing in informal settlements.

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Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development Hon. Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele, speaking at the Informal settlement Baseline report launch

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Attendees pictured at the Informal Settlements baseline report launch

She also called on stakeholders including Regional Councils, Local Authorities, Traditional Leaders, Civil Society Organizations, and the Private Sector to actively familiarize with the report and use it as a core planning, implementation, and monitoring tool.

“This requires strong collaboration among national and regional government, local authorities, the private sector, civil society, and communities,” Hon. /Goagoses added.

The report provides information of evidence on living conditions in informal settlements across Namibia, including access to water, sanitation, electricity, housing structures, and land tenure. Nationally, there are 563 informal settlements, of which 144 (25.6%) are declared, while 419 (74.4%) remain undeclared.



The Namibia Informal settlements Baseline report i launch

At the same event, Hon. Nathalia /Goagoses, Governor of the Erongo Region, noted that the baseline report equips government with essential data for effective resource allocation and sustainable development. She highlighted that addressing informal settlements issues is not about displacement, but about restoring dignity through settlement upgrading, tenure security, improved service delivery, and the creation of inclusive, resilient communities.

The launch was attended by Regional Governors, Mayors, Chairpersons of Local Authorities, Chief Regional Officers, Chief Executive Officers, and Administrators.



Staff Members participated at the launch of the report

Handover of ABT Demonstration House



Alternative Building Material house in Okahandja Park

WINDHOEK – The Urban and Rural Development Minister, Hon. Sankwasa James Sankwasa, officially handed over a demonstration house constructed using alternative building materials in Okahandja Park Location, on 06 February 2026.

The house was built by the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia in partnership with ABT Panels Namibia, showcasing innovative ideas and affordable housing solutions.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Hon. Sankwasa urged local authorities to make land available for housing development, particularly for low-income earners. He noted that some local authorities already have serviced land that remains undeveloped and emphasized the need to utilize such land to address the country's housing challenges.

Tobias Hainyeko Constituency Councillor, Hon. Christopher Likuwa, commended the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia and ABT Panels Namibia for constructing the demonstration houses in the constituency. He encouraged residents to join the Federation to access stronger and more durable housing structures.

“You should plan your lives with the little you have and stop spending money on alcohol,” Likuwa urged residents.

ABT Director, Medusalem Shilongo, stated that ABT is an 80 percent Namibian-Owned Company committed to supporting the government in delivering affordable, quality housing in the shortest possible time. He also thanked the Shack Dwellers Federation for identifying the beneficiaries of the house.

Christine Kanguvi, daughter of the late Constansia Kanguvi, expressed emotional gratitude for the modern home. She explained that her mother had been identified as the beneficiary last year while she was ill, but sadly passed away during the construction process.

On invitation of Hon. Sankwasa, the President of the Republic of Namibia, Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, visited the site to view the demonstration houses. She supported the Minister's call for local authorities not to allocate government-funded serviced land to private developers. Instead, she emphasized that such land should be prioritized for low-income earners, while private developers should be allocated unserviced land.

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Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah viewing the house

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Hon. Sankwasa James Sankwasa at the handover of ABT demonstration house

On 16 March 2026, the management of the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) met with ABT Panels Namibia for a strategic engagement to explore alternative building technologies. Discussions focused on innovative housing solutions and the benefits of prefabricated panel construction.



Hon. Sankwasa James Sankwasa pictured with Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah during the viewing of the house



Management of ABT showcasing the Materials used to build ABT houses



Through this engagement, NHE aims to establish a conducive working relationship with ABT Panels Namibia to support faster housing delivery through industrialised construction methods.

ABT Panels Namibia recently demonstrated its innovative approach through a low-cost housing design using prefabricated panels as a cost-effective alternative building material. The design offers advantages such as reduced construction period time frames, improved structural durability, energy efficiency, and lowering overall building costs. It also enables rapid construction, ease of installation, and greater affordability in housing development and, making it a viable solution to Namibia’s housing shortage.

TUBUSIS YOUTH LAUNCH FIRST EVER YOUTH CULTURAL AND TOURISM EXPO



Deputy Minister Hon Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele at the Tubusis youth expo

TUBUSIS- The Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development Hon Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele said that young people possess great characteristics that define today’s entrepreneurs. Hon. !Nawases-Taeyele made the remark at the official opening of the Tubusis Youth, Cultural and Tourism Expo, in Tubusis on 20 March 2026.

The Deputy Minister emphasized that these characteristics have been identified by leading economists, which include; vision, enthusiasm, passion, flexibility, determination, and resilience.

“Thus, young people are central for being both drivers and beneficiaries toward the attainment of vision 2030 as well as the Global Agenda for Sustainable Development” Hon. !Nawases-Taeyele.

Hon. !Nawases-Taeyele applauded the six youth leaders from Tubusis that rose to the occasion and created opportunities in their community, saying the youth expo is set to empower the youth of Tubusis and the entire Daures Constituency to join hands, show their talents, start enterprises, and show case on livestock while creating self-employment. The Deputy Minister acknowledged that youth expos or fairs greatly encourage youth to

participate in the economic development and actively contribute to the national building process.

She further emphasized that Youth Expos are in line with the National Development Priorities, and that the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development recognizes this great initiative as it serves as an example to young people in other regions to follow suit, come together and strengthen their position.

Hon. !Nawases-Taeyele reiterated the government’s commitment to accelerating exhilarating youth empowerment, through relevant institutions such as the National Youth service which has created tailor- made programs for Namibian youth.

“Therefore, in order to provoke productiveness within the minds of our young nation, the programs are made to create an enabling environment and respond to the needs of our young people in line with our National Development Goals” Hon. !Nawases-Taeyele said.

The occasion serves as the first-ever Youth Cultural and Tourism Annual Expo, of which the Minister of Urban and Rural Development, Hon. Sankwasa James Sankwasa has been nominated as a Patron.



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Republic of Namibia

Ministry of Urban and Rural Development

Customer Service Charter

YOUR VIEWS COUNT

- We continuously strive to improve our standards. To do this, we need to know what kind of service you want:
- We promise to consider your views when setting our service standards:
- Inform us if you are not satisfied and are unhappy with our service delivery: and
- Give us your comments so that we can improve our service.

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