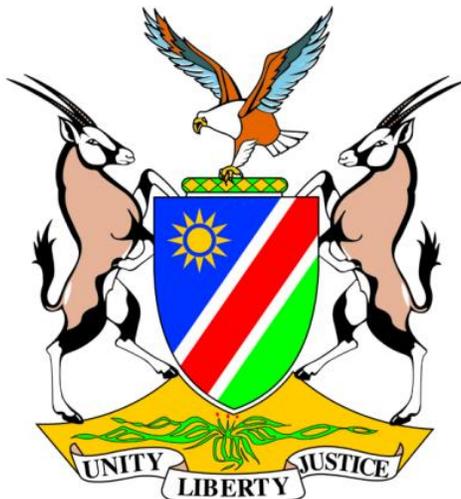


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



SPEECH

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HAGE G. GEINGOB,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**ON OCCASION OF THE
HANDING OVER OF HOUSES CONSTRUCTED ON PLOTS
SERVICED UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S MASSIVE LAND
SERVICING PROJECT (MULSP)**

**EXT.5, 6 & 7 KUISEBMOND AND EXT. 7 NARRAVILLE, WALVIS
BAY**

FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2017

Check against delivery

Director of Ceremonies,

Hon. Sophia Shaningwa, Minister of Urban &

Rural Development and,

Hon. Derek Klazen, Deputy Minister of Urban

& Rural Development,

Hon. Cleophas Mutjavikua, Governor of the

Erongo Region,

Your Worship Alderman Immanuel Wilfried,

Mayor of Walvis Bay,

Hon. Regional and local authority Councilors,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

In keeping with its ongoing commitment towards improving the livelihood of the Namibian people as well as our declaration of an all-out war on poverty, in 2015, the Government launched the Massive Urban Land Servicing Project (MULSP), to expedite our ongoing efforts in terms of servicing and delivery of residential land and affordable housing in urban areas.

As you may recall, in 2015 I visited sites in Windhoek, Oshakati and Walvis Bay, accompanied by Ministers Shaningwa and Schlettwein, for the purpose of identification

of sites to kick start the implementation of the Massive Urban Land Servicing Project. Following our visits, technical officials then proceeded to craft the details of the project sites and scope. This process resulted in the selection of two sites in Walvis Bay, namely Extensions 5, 6 & 7 Kuisebmond and Extension 7 for the Project.

Ladies and gentlemen

As a nation, we are still confronted with the challenges of poor sanitation and a backlog in the supply of serviced residential land as

well as decent and affordable housing in both urban and rural areas.

Tackling these challenges requires a concerted effort, and this is why I have endeavored to rally Namibians, through the concept of *Harambee*, to join forces in order to confront and address national challenges which include residential land, housing and sanitation. Our national resolve in this regard has been accentuated through our National Development Plans and the Harambee Prosperity Plan, where these three areas

have been identified as priorities for development.

In this context, the Government has launched various policy initiatives and continues to allocate resources towards increasing the supply and improved access to affordable urban land, housing and sanitation. The houses that I have been invited to hand over on this site and the land on which the houses have been constructed have been made possible through one of our policy strategies, namely the Massive Urban Land Servicing Project (MULSP).

It is pleasing to note that a single intervention or project such as the Massive Urban Land Servicing Project is able to address several of our developmental objectives.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The tangible results that we are witnessing here are indicative of hard work, commitment and partnership between various stakeholders. The execution of this Project is a showcase of Harambee in action and is evident of what can be achieved when

people with a shared vision and level of commitment pull in the same direction.

It is equally pleasing to note that, while the servicing of the land was financed by the Central Government, the construction of the houses was financed by the private sector. This is an example of the win-win public-private partnership that Government is advocating. We hope to see these kind of partnerships proliferating nationwide.

In order to avoid the pitfalls of other housing initiatives, where houses are constructed

only to end up unoccupied and subject to vandalism, I am pleased to note that the Municipality has already finalized its waiting list of applicants and signed deeds of sale with screened and qualified applicants. This model should be emulated by other local authorities and agencies that are tasked with housing delivery.

I wish to commend the team and partners involved in the execution of this project. Firstly I wish to thank the Minister Urban and Rural Development and the Municipal Council of Walvis Bay and their teams for

their leadership, commitment and diligence. I equally recognize the important roles of the contractors and financial institutions and wish to thank them for their show of partnership.

I look forward to similar tangible results from the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia which has been given 100 plots to construct affordable houses for its members here in Walvis Bay. I also look forward to seeing positive outcomes at other locations where the Massive Urban Land Servicing Project has

been piloted, namely Oshakati and Windhoek.

Ladies and gentlemen

I recognize that many more Namibians are in need of land and decent housing. Although we are faced with the massive challenge of providing adequate and affordable serviced urban land, housing and improved sanitation, we must realize that these challenges are not insurmountable. We will hold hands and stay on course, knowing that although it may take some time and huge resources to address the

needs of the people, through our common sense of purpose, we will continue to deliver, deliver and deliver.

Let us therefore pull together, as Government and the private sector, to continue to work together and re-dedicate ourselves to our developmental objectives and the goal of creating a Namibian House where no one will feel left out. Let us continue to march on forward in unity, with vigor and a sense of urgency and to do everything in our power to meet the social needs of our people.

In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to the Minister and the leadership of Walvis Bay for a job well done.

I thank you.