STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY HIFIKEPUNYE POHamba, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE HANDING-OVER OF HOUSES CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE NATIONAL MASS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

25 NOVEMBER 2014

WALVIS BAY

*Check Against Delivery*
Director of Ceremonies,
Hon. Maj. Gen. (Rtd.) Charles Namoloh,
Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development,
Honourable Ministers,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Honourable Governor of Erongo Region and Governors from Other Regions,
Honourable Chairpersons of Regional Councils,
Your Worship, the Major of Walvis Bay and other Mayors,
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors,
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
Esteemed Captains of Industries,
Distinguished Invited Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

One year ago, on 25 November 2013, I launched the National Mass Housing Development Programme in Windhoek.
The purpose of this national programme is to address the shortage of housing and the backlogs that are being experienced in different parts of our country. Our gathering here today is, therefore, an important milestone in the implementation of the Mass Housing Programme, and particularly, the delivery of houses to our people.

I am pleased that one year, to the day, when the National Mass Housing Programme was launched, we are able to hand over 89 houses to the beneficiaries. It is furthermore pleasing that, despite some teething problems, the construction of houses in different parts of the country has gained momentum and more houses will be handed over to new house owners in the coming months at different towns.

I wish to say to the nation that our Government is determined to see to it that this programme is implemented successfully.
For this reason, all stakeholders are under strict instructions to ensure that they fulfill their responsibilities. The Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, as the lead institution, is mandated to monitor progress and ensure that targets are met.

I urge the lead Ministry to continue working together and co-ordinating activities with the Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission to promote the prudent utilization of available resources and ensure the successful implementation of this important national programme.

Everything must be done to avoid delays in the implementation of this project. Delays and poor workmanship will not be tolerated. All contractors must, therefore, comply with the required quality standards.
Without serviced land, the Mass Housing Development Programme runs a risk of not reaching its set targets. Thus, I call upon all local authorities to speed up the process of servicing residential land for successful implementation of this program.

Through this programme, the Namibian people will not only be provided with affordable housing, they will also have access to better sanitation, which is necessary for the promotion of the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Director of Ceremonies,

Adequate housing is a basic necessity for all our people. Hence, since independence, our Government has implemented programmes to deliver this basic service to our communities. The National Mass Housing Programme provides for the construction of different categories of houses.
In order to make substantively address the housing backlog in the country, Government will provide subsidies for the purchase of specific categories of houses, with a view towards affordability.

Subsidies will be provided for categories such as D1, Core 5, Core 6, Core 7. For D1 and Core 5 categories, the subsidy amounts to 60 percent of the cost of the house, while for Core 6 and Core 7 categories, the subsidy amounts to 50 percent of the cost of the house.

We recognize that the demand for houses is very high. Prospective home-buyers will, therefore, be assisted on the first come, first served basis.
Director of Ceremonies,

I take this opportunity to commend the National Committee on Mass Housing, the National Technical Committee on Mass Housing, the National Housing Enterprise and all institutions involved in the planning and execution of the National Mass Housing Programme, for their dedication and hard work, since the programme was launched.

Government counts on you to ensure that all is done to achieve our stated goals and objectives, in line with the 4th National Development Plan and Vision 2030. This is part of our Government’s undertaking to implement a robust and effective programme for the delivery of affordable housing and sanitation for our people.

Director of Ceremonies,

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the new home owners for receiving their own homes.
We will move with deliberate speed to deliver houses to those who are still waiting for this service.

With these words, it is now my honour to hand over the first batch of houses delivered as part of the National Mass Housing Programme, to their new owners.

I thank you.