



The Gateway to Endless Opportunities

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HER WORSHIP, CLLR. SADE
S GAWANAS, MAYOR OF WINDHOEK ON THE
OCCASION OF THE HANDOVER OF CERTIFICATES OF
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND OCCUPATION**

10 September 2022

09H00-12H00

c/o Istanbul & Frankfurt Streets (Erf 3381 - Otjomuise)

Director of Ceremonies, Mr. O'Brien Hekandjo, ACEO of the City of Windhoek;

Your Worship, Councillor Joseph Uapingene, Deputy Mayor of Windhoek;

Honourable John S Moonde, Chairperson of the Khomas Regional Council;

Honourable Hon. Samuel Angolo, Khomasdal Constituency Councillor;

Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors, present;
Community Leaders;

Mr. Clement Mafwila, Chief Regional Officer;

Officials of the City of Windhoek, present;

Representatives of the Contractors and Invited Stakeholders;

Esteemed residents;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning,

It is an honour and indeed a privilege to address you at this milestone event.

Council approved the Development and Upgrading Policy in 2019, in response to the fast-growing informal settlements of Windhoek and the need to manage, formalise and upgrade these areas.

As mentioned earlier by the Deputy Mayor, the existing informal settlements (which were unplanned at the time of passing the policy), were declared as “Reception Areas” in line with the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (No. 23 of 1992) as amended. However, Council saw the need to formally acknowledge the occupation of land by residents and thereby set conditions for orderly development.

Today’s event is the culmination of a long-term strategy to manage the formalisation and upgrading of informal settlements. The programme requires the registration of all

households and their respective settlement conditions and to acknowledge that Council is aware of the existence of each household.

What does this mean? It means that once an area is issued with the Certificates of Acknowledgement of Occupation, the concerned area is locked and any person seeking to erect a structure in the area should approach the relevant department for guidance.

Since 2020, the Human Settlement Division has embarked on mass registration efforts, for house structures in informal settlements and the subsequent issuance of certificates of acknowledgement of land occupation.

For the Khomasdal Constituency, 3,535 house structures were numbered and 2,875 structures were registered. Of those who qualified, 55% received their certificates. Today, 256 certificates will be issued to the beneficiaries, bringing

the total number of certificates issued in Khomasdal Constituency to 1,434, which represents 69.4%.

For the Tobias Hainyeko Constituency, 8,372 house structures were numbered and 6,634 structures were registered. Of those who qualified for certificates, 57% already received their certificates. Tomorrow, 481 certificates will be issued to the beneficiaries from Okahandja Park A, D, E & F, bringing the total number of certificates issued in Tobias Hainyeko Constituency to 4,790, which represents 63%.

To the beneficiaries of the certificates today:

Please accept these important documents as Council's commitment to ensure all residents of Windhoek have a decent place to call home. We will continue to issue these certificates over the remaining weekends throughout September 2022 until the first weekend of October 2022.

Lastly,

I am sure that you will agree with me that the issue of land delivery, the provision of affordable housing and the creation of livable conditions in the informal settlements can only be addressed if we join forces, plan ahead and engage key stakeholders in terms of funding and support. Let today's event be a reminder of what is possible. I commend Cllr. Uapingene as Chairperson of the Land Delivery and Affordable Housing Advisory Sub-committee, technical team from the Human Settlement Division, as well a strategic partner, for the tangible results for which we bear witness today. Let us continue to fulfil our mandate and improve the quality of life of all our residents.

With these few remarks, I thank you and look forward to handing out the certificates.

Thank you.