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**CLOSING REMARKS BY**  
**HON. BENITHA IMBAMBA**  
**REGIONAL COUNCILOR OF ARANDIS CONSTITUENCY**  
**AND**  
**CHAIRPERSON OF ERONGO REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
**AT THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY**  
**BY SHACK DWELLERS FEDERATION OF NAMIBIA – ARANDIS**

**22 OCTOBER 2024**

**ARANDIS**

- Directors of Ceremony
- Honourable Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele, Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development
- Honourable Neville Andre Itope, Governor of the Erongo Region
- His Worship Risto Kapendah, Mayor of Arandis
- Ms Trifane Mukete, Member of Shack Dwellers Foundation of Namibia
- Mr Joram Kahono, Area Manager of First National Bank
- Representative of Ohorongo Cement
- Representative of Pupkewitz Foundation
- Member of Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia
- Community of Arandis
- Media
- Invited guests
- Ladies and gentlemen

## **GOOD AFTERNOON**

Being tasked with a closing remarks at such a significant and remarkable event is truly an honour. Today, we are not just responding to the Government's call for delivery of affordable land and adequate housing but also embodying the spirit of unity and collective action, as promoted by the Harambee philosophy.

This initiative is not merely about providing homes; it is about creating communities where every citizen, regardless of their background, can live with dignity and security.

As we reflect on the progress made today, we should remember that our work is far from over. It is through continued collaboration – between government, private stakeholders and the communities we serve, that we will achieve lasting housing solutions. Together, we can ensure that the vision to provide housing for all becomes a reality, not just for the present but for the generations to come.

I wholeheartedly thank Honourable Hon Evelyn !Nawases-Taeyele, Deputy Minister of Urban and Rural Development for her unwavering guidance and leadership in addressing the housing backlog. By availing herself for dialogue with stakeholders, demonstrates a true commitment to collaborative efforts in ameliorating this critical issue. The Ministry's openness to engaging has paved the urgent demand for affordable housing thus creating more inclusive communities.

Although Honourable Governor of this mighty region would not be with us today due to prior commitments. I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to Hon. Neville Andre, the Governor of the Erongo Region, the Mighty region for the support and guidance in the ongoing fight to eradicate poverty in the region. Honourable Governor you are never short of wisdom; we are grateful to have a visionary leader like you at the helm of the Erongo Region. Your dedication in prioritizing the needs of the inhabitants of this region has not only inspired us but has also brought hope and tangible progress to many lives.

Our gratitude goes to Councillor Kapendah, the Mayor of Arandis, and his entire team of Arandis Town Council, for his insight and preparedness in making land not only available but affordable. Thank you Arandis Town Council.

The container that you see there is the donation from Namport. Thank you Namport. We wrote a letter and at

some point I walked into the Chief Executive Officer's office – and indicated that I want a container, and Mr Kanime's response were "did we not responded to your letter yet, just give me a week". Within a week, we received the container for Henties Bay and Arandis. Thank you Namport for coming on board.

Arandis Constituency Office under the Erongo Regional Council have given support to Shack Dwellers Federation in Arandis. The Constituency Office attended meetings of the Shack Dwellers Federation in Arandis to assist in their quest for their dream to be realised. The Arandis Constituency Office purchase the equipment been seen here today – the concrete mixer and the bricks making machine, shovels and wheelbarrows. We will continue to give helping hand and support as the Erongo Regional Council to make sure that housing backlog are taken care off.

I will default in my duty, if I do not give 100% gratitude to the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia who are working tirelessly to address the plea of the homeless and low income

category earners in the country. This is history in the making – we have all observed and now we need to work hard.

Arandis, as a prominent mining town, continues to experience a high influx of people seeking employment and better opportunities. This growing population brings with it both opportunities and challenges, particularly in the areas of housing and infrastructure. The demand for affordable housing is critical and addressing this need will not only improve living conditions but also contribute to sustainable development in the ‘A’ town and beyond.

The Government alone cannot bear the full weight of eradicating poverty or improving the living standards of its citizens. It requires the collective efforts of all sectors of society. We are deeply grateful to First National Bank and other corporate players for ensuring that our citizens have access to safe and secure dwellings. Your contributions are vital to building a brighter future for all.

On behalf of the beneficiaries to this noble juncture, I would like to express our deepest gratitude.

Let me also acknowledge the contributions of all those who have made this earth work possible, and those who will be involved in the construction of these houses.

Before I conclude, I would also like to thank the media for coming and to witness this milestone. I appeal and call upon those who will be beneficiaries to this project to safeguard their properties and make it more liveable for your families. Report vandalism to the nearest Police Station so they can deal with those vandals.

I wish you a safe trip back to your various destinations and blessings from the Almighty God.

I thank you