



**Republic of Namibia**

**MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**STATEMENT BY**

**HON. SANKWASA JAMES SANKWASA, MP**

**MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

**AT THE**

**OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

**OF SPONSORSHIP RENEWAL**

**FOR THE SHACK DWELLERS FEDERATION OF  
NAMIBIA ON 22 APRIL 2026**

**IN**

**WINDHOEK**

**KEYNOTE STATEMENT BY HON. JAMES SANKWAS, MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF SPONSORSHIP RENEWAL FOR THE SHACK DWELLERS FEDERATION OF NAMIBIA ON 22 APRIL 2026**

***Mr. Hans-Willem Schutte – Ohorongo Cement CEO***

***Ms. Revonia Job-FirstRand Namibia Sponsorship & Social Impact Manager-***

***Ms. Meryl Barry, Pupkewitz Foundation CEO***

***Mr. Danie Botha, Chairperson of the Namibia Housing Action Group Trust Board***

***Members of the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia***

***Members of the media***

***Ladies and gentlemen***

Good afternoon, Fellow Namibians,

I am humbled to join you this afternoon to celebrate yet another milestone in our resolve to restore our people's hope and dignity. I am here to demonstrate my commitment to you and to our Country, and to celebrate the 10-year partnership in supporting the community in housing themselves.

The Shack Dwellers Federation is currently constructing 3106 houses funded through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, for N\$ 137 million. Further, I am informed that through private sector funding, the partnership by Ohorongo Cement, FNB and Pupkewitz Foundation has funded the construction of 532 houses countrywide, at a cost of N\$ 26,5 million. In view of this, I

commend you, the three partners for assisting and complementing the government effort in this regard. Furthermore, I am informed that 60 houses will be constructed at the following urban centers: Karasburg, Oshakati and Otjinene. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, I express gratitude for this sincere, selfless, and humanitarian gesture from our corporate entities in supporting this noble cause.

By supporting initiatives like this, we can ensure that many of our citizens live in decent house structures as opposed to the shacks and makeshift structures that some of them live in today, most especially in the informal settlements.

As demonstrated by many Local Authorities, this is indeed a game-changer. It is an initiative that has already changed people's outlook on life. For some people, these houses are nothing, but for people who have lived with no shelter for the better part of their lives, these houses mean a lot.

Moving into these houses is symbolic as much as it is sentimental. It addresses Government's resolve to provide housing to the needy members of society and to restore their dignity as equals in society. I am also proud that the business sector has taken on this project in support of the government's agenda for proper housing for all its citizens. I have always advocated for all stakeholders to hold hands and work together towards the common good for all. Indeed, this partnership pleases me to see how much we can accomplish if we work together and put our resources into causes that benefit a greater part of society. Our resources as the Government will never be enough to address all of society's needs. Coupled with that, the priority list of Government is so long, and we would not be able to address it sufficiently if it were left to us as the Government alone to ensure that we provide what is required.

This is an example of the Public Private Partnership that we as the Government, continue to advocate in line with the NDP 6, and we

must ensure that it expands from just the housing initiative to other sectors where our people also need assistance.

I also call upon the beneficiary communities to continue their assistance of this initiative by lending their time and energy in digging the trenches and laying the foundations that are required to construct these houses. With our own efforts, we can reduce input costs and ensure that the collected funds directly benefit the people who need houses.

In conclusion, allow me to express my sincere gratitude to you all for your commitment and success so far, and to wish you well for the future. The Federation needs all our support to make dreams possible.

I thank you for your kind attention, and it is now my singular honour to declare this event officially opened.