



# MEDIA RELEASE

*For immediate release*

## **OHORONGO CEMENT AVAILS N\$9 MILLION FOR EMPLOYEE HOUSING**

Employees of Ohorongo Cement received their Deeds of Sale for land allocated to them by the Otavi Town Council today. The company availed N\$9 million that is going towards the purchasing of land as well as cement contribution, for the construction of employee houses.

“This is certainly the biggest highlight in the history of our company. Today we created the first of many real and lasting legacies, for the welfare of our colleagues. What we did today, will hopefully restore their human dignity,” said the Managing Director of Ohorongo Cement Mr Hans-Wilhelm Schütte.

Ohorongo Cement entered into an agreement with the workers union, to assist employees in acquiring land for housing in Otavi and Tsumeb. The focus is on first time property owners. This is in support of the national drive for housing provision as described in the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

The target is to acquire 120 ervens, subject to the approval of funds, cost and availability of serviced land. Otavi Town Council allocated 30 serviced ervens, measuring an average 375m<sup>2</sup> for the average cost N\$26,000 in Extension 5.

Now that the land has been availed, Ohorongo Cement will provide cement for the construction of standardized one- and two-bedroom houses. The building material will be paid for by the employees through loans from financial institutions.

To ensure that the houses are of superior quality, a building contractor has been appointed and will deliver the housing units over a specified period.

The employees will be the sole owners of the properties, even though the company is contributing to a certain extend towards acquiring them, as Mr Schütte explains.



**OHORONGO**  
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“Our colleagues will be the direct owners of these properties. This is why they signed the Deeds of Sale directly with the Otavi Town Council and the respective financial institutions. Our contribution is only to ensure that all our colleagues enjoy quality of life and living conditions,” he said.

During the 2016 wage negotiations, the workers union negotiated for assistance towards property ownership for the employees.

“We felt that increasing the housing allowance didn’t solve the problem of lack of housing. That is why we opted for a permanent solution for us and our families to have dignified homes. Therefore we thank the company for this good gesture that will truly secure futures,” said Brazzo Zamuee the Namibian National Labour Organisation, Branch Secretary.

Her Worship Cllr Martha Shipanga, the Mayor of Otavi Town Council, handed the Deeds of Sale over to the Ohorongo Cement employees and described the initiative by the company as a step in the right direction to alleviate poverty.

“We will try to make sure that families have dignified homes. My hope is that many more employees of Ohorongo Cement will seize this opportunity to acquire a home. Congratulation to you who received your Deeds of Sale today and we look forward to the ground breaking ceremony for the construction of your houses,” the Mayor said.

***Otavi Constituency Councilor Hon. Laina Nekundi and councilors of the town of Otavi as well as the Acting CEO Pesella Nunda witnessed the handover of the Deeds of Sale.***



*(In front: First of ten ( seven not in picture) employees, who received their Deeds of Sale from the Otavi Town Council. Kevin Hitjii, Mulunga Elifas, Josefa Tjikua and Jacolene Desai; Ohorongo HR Administrator.*



*Josefa Tjikua, Mulunga Elifas and Kevin Hitjii, displaying the symbolic key to their secured homes.*

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