



## OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

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### STATE OF REGION ADDRESS

HON. J. U. UERIKUA

24 JUNE 2022

The Chairperson of Otjozondjupa Regional Council – Hon. Marlyn Mbakera  
All Constituency Councillors and Honourable Members of Parliament;  
Minister in the Presidency Hon. Christine !Hoebes  
Chief Regional Officer for Otjozondjupa Region – Mrs. Agatha Mwet  
Fellow Namibians following us on TV, on live streaming, Radio Services and Social Media platforms  
Members of the Media;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is indeed my sincere honour and gratitude standing here as a Regional Governor as a representative of the Head of State His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob and as a representative of the Central Government to account to you the sovereigns in accordance with Article 110 (A) sub-article 5 and 6 of the Namibian Constitution, on Government Developmental programmes for the 2021/2022 FY and beyond. I will report on developmental achievements and key planned activities of the Region.

My State of Region Address is aligned to our Government Plans such as: the National Development Plan 5, Harambee Prosperity Plan 2, and Vision 2030.

## **HON CHAIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

Our region is the fourth largest with a Geographical area of 105,460km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of about 144,000 (2011 Census) with a population density of 1.4 km<sup>2</sup>. We are the fourth largest the region stretches from Okahandja constituency on the southern side to as far as Tsumkwe Constituency bordering Botswana on the eastern side. Our aim is to ensure equitable distribution of amenities to create a chain of complimentary economic activities in the various towns and constituencies of our region.

## **EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE**

### **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

Good Governance is central to creating and sustaining an environment which fosters strong and equitable development and it is an essential complement to sound economic policies. Key to Good Governance is the Human Capital and people entrusted to create a conducive environment for the creation of synergy between adherence to statutes and effective service delivery. In terms of administration, the region has a sound governance architecture in place. The decentralization process, aimed at bringing services closer to the people, is being implemented in the region with Nine (9) ministerial functions having being delegated with the recent ones being the Division of Arts and Culture, Child Welfare, social pension burials in addition to the already delegated ones.

A notable achievement in strengthening Governance, is the construction of a Government Office Park in Otjiwarongo to the tune N\$ 121 969 969.00 accommodate various O/M/As.

Performance Management System is a reform introduced to fast-track and promote service delivery through improved performance. To this end, all 138 staff members of the RC has signed PA including officials of the delegated functions. Hon Chairperson, Accountability should not only be limited to the administrative officials but rather to as well include all those vested with the responsibility of service delivery at all levels including politicians. I thus call up on the Chairperson to strongly consider best practices that will enable holding councillors (regional and local) to account.

As per the Harambee Prosperity Plan (II), I hereby state that the region has set itself a goal to promote and strengthen good governance at all spheres to ensure quality service delivery. Our focus is to foster a spirit of resilience in

governance notwithstanding the adverse effects of the Covid -19 pandemic, drought and economic recession we went through as a nation over the past years.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

The National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan 21/22 (NACSAP) was launched by the Right Hon Prime Minister on the 16th March 2022 after approval by Cabinet. This strategy and action plan that makes provision for the establishment of Regional Anti-Corruption Forums that will be chaired by Regional Governors, which will be the overseeing for implanting NACSAP. The Anti-corruption Commission in the region has made tremendous strides in curbing corruption. During the period under review, Three (3) people were convicted by the Otjiwarongo Magistrate Court as follows:

### **Conviction and Sentencing:**

- An official of Otjiwarongo Municipality was convicted for falsifying documents.
- An official of the Ministry of Finance at Otjiwarongo was convicted for use of office for gratification.
- A staff of Ministry of Works and Transport was also convicted for use of office for gratification.

### **Arrests:**

- A former official of Ministry of Finance at Otjiwarongo was arrested on charges of corruption before he resigned.

### **Court cases:**

- Court cases under way include, Grootfontein Municipality, Okakarara Town Council and Okahandja Municipality.
- Two (2) cases involving attempt to bribe ACC officials that happened at Otjiwarongo.
- A case involving a Tender of Ministry of Works at Grootfontein.
- A corruption case involving the Police at Grootfontein.

### **Ongoing cases:**

- A former Councillor of Grootfontein Municipality was arrested, but not yet convicted.
- Three (3) former Councillors of Okahandja Municipality were arrested and they are not yet convicted.

### **Cases under Investigation:**

- One case at Grootfontein Municipality pertaining to Land issues.
- One corruption case at Otjiwarongo Municipality.
- One corruption case at Otavi Town Council.

Anti-Corruption Commission is not only there to pursue perpetrators but also to train and build capacity through awareness creation. To this, Otavi Town Council and Okahandja Municipality staff, Police officers and teachers at Otavi town, were trained in Corruption Risk Assessment and Ethics. My call to the region is that we should strive to be a corruption-free region by upholding the values and standards as stipulated in the Anti-Corruption Act No. 8 of 2003. There is a noticeable reluctance and fear to report cases of possible corruption to the relevant authorities by members of public due to the fear of victimization, this in a way hampers the ACC efforts in curbing corruption.

## **Expound**

### **ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT**

As a Region, our mantra remains that of participatory planning and integrated development. We want to ensure that every penny of Government is effectively utilized to address the needs of the Region. Therefore, there is no need for programmes to compete but rather they should complement each other, because the outputs are intended at benefiting the broader citizens of this great Region and Nation at large.

The World has undergone paradigm shift with the confluence of technologies and deeper understanding is required of the impact of 4IR on our society. Otjozondjupa region, like the Namibia at large, stand on the brink of a technology that will fundamentally alter the way we live, work and relate to one another. In its scale and complexity, the transformation will be unlike anything humankind has experienced before. As you might be aware, on the 7-8 June 2022, His Excellency President Dr. Hage G. Geingob hosted the first ever Namibian 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution Conference and Expo of 2022 under the Theme: 4IR as an Enabler of Green and Inclusive Industrialization. I participated in this conference and expo on your behalf and it is on this backdrop that we stand ready to be guided on the way forward by the in exploiting and harnessing opportunities presented by the 4IR.

In Otjozondjupa Region, we are keeping abreast of the economic revolution especially in terms of inclusion of technology to maximize growth and development as well as to ensure smart opportunities in turning challenges into opportunities.

In terms of Economic Development, it is worth mentioning that Otjiwarongo was selected as the site for the construction of the first ever Biomass Industrial Park in Namibia and a 100 Hectare piece of land has been prepared and serviced for this massive endeavour, which will create about 300 jobs at Otjiwarongo. This project is expected to leverage value addition synergies for a robust local market for wood-based products to unlock new markets

opportunities domestically and beyond. The project will process more than 300 tonnes of encroacher bush biomass per annum, while creating several value-added chain by-products such as animal feed and many more.

Another project is that of treating sewerage water to produce bio-gas and re-usable water for irrigation purposes. This project is being piloted at Okandjira Settlement in the Omatako Constituency in partnership between the Otjozondjupa Regional Council and LISHA Empowerment and Development Organisation, a community development organization targeting communal Farmers. This project will create temporary employment opportunities in the settlement.

As part of availing trading and business opportunities for micro economic activities, several local authorities in the region are in the process of setting up Markets. The vendors in our towns are challenged with lack of selling places, resulting in problems of people trading at unauthorised areas. One such is Otjiwarongo Municipality that is in the process of constructing a market worth **N\$52 Million Namibia Dollars. Expound**

Our region is strategically located and serves as a mouthpiece and gateway to many destinations and endless opportunities across different sectors. On this basis plans are underway to upgrade the Otjiwarongo airstrip to an acceptable standard that enables usage by commercial and cargo planes. **Expound**

We are also proud to report that the Municipality of Otjiwarongo has embarked upon a Public Private Partnership (PPP) project for the development of a Waste Water Treatment Plant to be funded through the Project Preparation Fund under the Ministry of Finance.

In addition to this, Otjiwarongo Municipality has also developed a concept note for a Waste-to-Energy Plant at the dumping site with feasibility study funded by the African Development Bank to the tune of N\$ 10 Million.

## **SOCIAL PROGRESSION**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

**Youth and Women Support**

The region places great emphasis on the plight of the Youth. Through various governance structures, the Youth are being assisted in terms of education and income generating opportunities. During the period under review, my office has assisted several young people to attain entrance to various tertiary institutions and High learning institutions. In total 12 learners were assisted in this regard at an amount of **N\$55 355.00**. The Office of the Governor also supported 3 athletes through Namibia Schools Sport Union (NSSU) to partake in the International Schools Federation Under 15 World Games in Belgrade, Serbia to an amount of N\$9 500.00. Furthermore, in support of youth activities, the Office of the Governor will host the Governor's Cup in two weeks' time to the tune of N\$ 100 000.00. The Governor's Cup aims to select netball under 19 and soccer under 20 teams from our region to try out with other regions at the upcoming Newspaper Cup in Oshana Region in August.

In addition 20 youth in Otjiwarongo Constituency have benefited from poultry production projects donation of 200 chicks for breeding purpose, feeders and feeds (10kg bag each), Today those young people are poultry producers and contributing to the economy of the region and nation at large.

Furthermore on youth empowerment, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and National Service through the National Youth Service implements a youth empowerment program aimed at achieving the twin objective of enhancing access to training and fostering employability through the Rietfontein Training Centre situated between Otavi and Grootfontein here in our region. NYS offers eleven (11) accredited trades at this facility. To date a total of 2 388 graduates from this facility has been registered as employed and self-employed according the ministry's database.

In terms of the National Youth programmes in the region, with specific reference to the National Youth Service, I would to applaud the services of that institution in terms of Youth empowerment. We are glad that the intake of the Youth Service includes many youth from our region as well.

To date, 4 691 graduates, have been deployed to voluntary sites of national interests nationwide and earns a living (N\$700-N\$ 4000/month). A total of 528 graduates nationwide are benefiting from the NYS agreement with Namport to provide security services at WB and Luderitz ports.

The youth at Kalkfeld Settlement in Otjiwarongo Constituency benefited welding machines, welding helmets, sewing machines, irons, fried chips cutters and fryers all to the tune of N\$ 60 000.00 from the regional

### **Disability**

In terms of Disability support, through the Ministry of Gender, Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, 28 persons with severe disabilities were assisted with individual support items such as diapers, portable toilets,

showers and formula milk. Under the student grant programme Four (4) tertiary Students were assisted with tuition fees, transport allowance and reasonable accommodation according to their disability. Outreach visits were also carried in Tsumkwe and Okahandja to register and refer persons with disabilities to services.

The office of the Governor has donated 25 wheelchairs to constituency councillors for distribution to needy community members in each constituency. As the saying goes, disability is not inability, let us all be mindful of the plight of people with disability and treat them with exceptional considerations when recruitment opportunities arise. Going forward there is a need for a school for children with special needs in our region.

In addition our region has handed over 60 packs of sunscreen to people with albinism and this annual activity with support from FabuFarm Pharmaceuticals here in Otjiwarongo. **Expound**

### **Marginalized**

The Otjozondjupa Region houses about 5 758 marginalized communities being San, Ovaherero and Ovambo. Under the period under review, key projects that the Division Marginalized Communities within the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication, and Social Welfare, undertook in the Otjozondjupa Region includes:

- Siting and Drilling of two boreholes at Farm Uitkomst in Omatako Constituency to the tune of N\$ 408,678.41 benefiting an entire community of approximately 210 Households.
- Installation of water infrastructure at Farm Uitkomst in Omatako Constituency to a tune of N\$959,922.40.
- Construction of the state-of-the-art ECD Centre in Tsumkwe in collaboration with the Palms for Life Foundation Namibia in Tsumkwe Constituency (The construction is complete and handover is scheduled for August 2022) at a cost of 5,600,000.00. A total of 164 children were identified and will commence classes after the handover in August 2022.
- Ongoing construction of the state-of-the-art ECD Centre at Farm Uitkomst in collaboration with the Palms for Life Foundation Namibia in Omatako Constituency (The construction is at roof level and completion is scheduled for the end of September 2022). The project cost is 6,400,000.00 and it will benefit more than 180 children.
- The divisions provides decent burials to the marginalized communities and for this year under review 62 burials were undertaken at a cost of N\$293 478.14. The office further provided transport to 84 learners to

and from Farm Uitkomst and Okahandja Schools during out-weekends and holidays, complimented by the Ministry of Education and Culture In Tsumkwe Constituency.

- Our Government's efforts to address equitable land distribution and access, for all Namibians, of which the region of Otjozondjupa is not an exception; cannot go un-applauded. Otjozondjupa Region is predominantly a livestock area for both commercial and communal areas. During the period of 2021/2022 Financial Year, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform as per its mandate, acquired 3 Farms that were divided into Nine (9) Farming Units which were allotted to potential applicants.
- The Otjozondjupa region's allotment included a group of Forty-Six (46) Generational Farm Workers. Out of the total number of Forty-Nine (49) beneficiaries resettled, Thirty-four (34) are Male while Fifteen (15) are Female.
- I am also pleased to note that a total amount of resettlement leaseholds paid for the financial year under review is **N\$198,776.00** an increase of Fifty Four percent (54%) from the previous FY revenue collected in the previous Financial Year that only amounted to **N\$107,191.46**.
- Otjozondjupa has about 250 000 Hectares of virgin land, however it lacks water infrastructure. To this end we are at an advance stage with MAWLR to commence a water infrastructure development project in this areas with the aim of unlocking the production potential of this land through farming. **Expound**
- terms of the development of Farm Infrastructure under the Programme for Communal Land Development (PCLD), the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform is undertaking projects aimed at developing communal areas through farming infrastructure investments. The projects are in the communal areas of Aasvoelness and Gam in the Tsumkwe Constituency and they include a far training farmers and reticulating water through pipelines and drilling boreholes.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

One cannot talk about land without referring to the issue of Communal land rights registration, which is another programme of the MAWLR aimed at ensuring security of tenure (land rights), as regulated through the Communal Land Reform Act (Act. No. 5 of 2002).



- The region is cognisant of the challenges of land and boundary disputes, double allocations, unauthorized extensions and illegal fencing. These challenges are been tackled through the involvement of all stakeholders including the Traditional Authorities. **Expound**
- It has also been observed that, whilst the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform has decentralized its regional function (Division of Lands), Funding of Regional Capital Projects such as for the Neu Sommerau Resettlement Project, a Resettlement Farm at Kombat; is still being facilitated at the Head office. The process of procuring project services and inputs for this farm is thus affected by this arrangements and causes a concerning delay for the project to be implemented effectively. I call on the relevant Ministry, to consider transferring capital project funds to the Regional Councils for fast, efficient and effective service delivery.
- During the period under review, an amount of **N\$400,000.00** was spent on drilling Three (3) boreholes, of which only Two were successful at Tjatjou in Tsumkwe Constituency and Felschenek in the Omatako Constituency. The Third borehole at Talitha in Okakarara Constituency was not successful. In addition, 3 boreholes were drilled at Otjipaheua at Gam area in the Tsumkwe Constituency earmarked for an area targeted as a reception area for the Botswana returnees of Namibia origin, but the boreholes were dry. Exorbitant pricing by drillers when billing Government is a cause of concern and unpatriotic. Two farms in our region with a combined size of approximately 10 000 ha were acquired and ready for use under the program of repatriating people of Namibian origin living in Botswana.
- The region also managed to conduct installations at 13 boreholes through in-house support of the staff of the Rural Water Supply Directorate. A significant project is the construction of a 24 Kilometre water pipeline to service the Farmers Cooperatives of Otjiyao, Ngatunue and Otjiningandu in Gam area of Tsumkwe Constituency, at a cost of **N\$23, 4 Million**.
- On the other hand the Dry land Crop Production Program (DCPP) is aimed at enhancing crop production and boosting yields targeting farmers in the communal areas. Under this program, farmers are receiving subsidized inputs (i.e. seeds & fertilizers), services (i.e. ploughing, ripping, planting and weeding) to ensure food security at household and national level.
- 336 farmers' fields totalling to 600ha were ploughed by private tractors at a very subsidized rate. Of these 600 hectares ploughed, only 190 ha were planted using Government machinery in the communal areas of Otjozondjupa region.
- Additionally under DCPP, a total of about 4300 kg of mahangu, maize, sorghum and cowpeas beans certified seeds, were sold to farmers at a subsidized amount to ensure effective production.

- Communal & resettled farmers are being supported in enhancing market-driven production of the horticultural sector through access to essential farm inputs (i.e. seeds, fertilizers and pesticides), irrigation packages, shade nets and tools under the new Government subsidy intervention called “National Horticulture Support Program”. A total of Nineteen (19) farmers were assisted of which 63% were from communal areas and 37% from resettled farmers. A cumulative total of Two Hundred and Forty Five Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifteen Namibian dollars **N\$245 215** was spent on this intervention.
- The Poultry Value Chain Development Scheme (PVCDS) is an initiative of the MAWLR in line with the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5), Harambee Prosperity Plan 2, and MAWLR Strategic Plan of empowering the least privileged communities and reduce disparity in income gaps. This is achieved through subsidized packages for acquiring production stock (day-old chicks, pullets, etc.), housing material, feed and veterinary medicine. Through the above interventions, 24 producers were subsidized in procurement of chickens, equipment, housing materials and feeds respectively. An amount of **N\$150 367.00** was spent for this intervention.
- The enforcement and implementation of forestry laws and regulations is aimed at ensuring sustainable management of natural resources which helps to reduce the loss of biodiversity. We commit to contribute to the enforcement of the Forest Act No. 12 of 2001 as amended by Forestry Amendment Act No.13 of 2005 and regulation (2015). A total amount of **N\$ 897 281.03** was collected, of which N\$ 722 289.75 was from Forestry Permits, N\$ 97 373.00 from seedling sales and N\$ 77 618.05 from other services such as auctions and veterinary services fees.
- We are prominent when it comes to charcoal production and therefore, we are putting a lot of emphasis in terms of adherence to environmental standards as well as fair Labour practices. However we are aware of cases of mistreatment and exploitation of workers in the charcoal industry which includes low wages, lack protective gear, poor working conditions etc. we call upon law enforcement agencies, charcoal stakeholders producers and the association to ensure fair labour practices and protection of workers.
- In terms of the environment, we have also noted with concern, the negligence on the part of some charcoal producers that has resulted in veld fires affecting scores of grazing land in our region.
- I appeal to the charcoal producers, to adhere to all the standards and conditions of charcoal production.
- In terms of Tourism, we are in the process of establishing a Regional Tourism Forum aimed at fast tracking tourism and hospitality activities in the region.

## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

As a region, we are heavily reliant on the efficient operations of the health system in order to ensure societal well-being. For administrative purposes our region was segmented into four health districts being Okahandja, Okakarara, Grootfontein including Tsumkwe and Otjiwarongo.

Having proper infrastructure is one of the fundamental requirements towards a responsive health system. During the period under review the region is proud to report on notable achievements amongst others and this includes:

- The Construction of prefabricated **Isolation Facilities** at Okahandja and Otjiwarongo Hospitals at a total cost of **N\$7,346,833.49**.
- The Construction of a prefabricated TB/HIV Clinic at Tsumkwe at a cost of N\$521 203.00.
- The renovation and upgrade of mortuaries at Otjiwarongo, Grootfontein and Okakarara at a total cost of **N\$ 866 329.00**
- Refurbishment of hospital wards and laundry services. A total an amount of **N\$19 610 817.03** was spent on capital projects of the Ministry of Health in Otjozondjupa region for this period
- we benefited from the Installation at Grootfontein District Hospital, of a 4.5 tonne oxygen tank donated by the **Welsh Government** through **Cardiff University** in partnership with the **University of Namibia**.
- Our region is vast and Tsumkwe constituency being the furthest and with difficult road infrastructure, it is our commitment and wish to see that Tsumkwe Constituency be liberated as a stand-alone health district for increased access to health care by those communities. Currently Tsumkwe relies on services under the Grootfontein Health District despite it located at a distance of over 400 Kilometres (Gam).
- In terms of ambulance services the region is still challenged due to the aging fleet and breakdowns and as we are talking the whole region is only having two operational ambulances which is a serious cause of concern and requires immediate attention.

## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Our region is governed by a rule of law like elsewhere in our country, socio-economic advancement and growth is depended on a safe, secure environment in which all are protected.

- During the period under review, the Namibia Police through the section of Special Crime Prevention Operations, held operations such as; Hokanam Operation ( phase III and phase IV) of which these were all the brainchild of the Head of State, His Excellency President Hage G. Geingob. Operation Hokanam, jointly involved the Namibian Police Force, Defence Force and other stakeholders, to respond to crime.

- Under Serious Crimes, the region noted significant progress due to efficient action; notably in two incidents that involved fraud and theft at a local bank and robbery and assault case at supermarket at Okakarara, All the culprits were successfully apprehended.
- Our region is hard hit in terms of road carnages on the B1 road between Okahandja-Otjiwarongo-Otavi roads, which are currently the highest accident prone areas in the country. Namibia has the best roads infrastructure but ‘road user’s attitude’ and ‘negligence driving’ is a key contributing factor in road accidents. Thus, Traffic policing remains an integral part of promoting road safety. During the period under review, a total of 7341 traffic fines amounting to **N\$ 5,831 525-00** were issued and 150 persons were arrested for Drunken Driving, while 52 Accidents occurred. 460 persons were arrested for traffic offence. To this end my office has initiated a plan of a Roads symposium aimed at bringing all road stakeholders together and seek an amicable solution to this problem. We have lost productive citizens on this road. One of the key proposal on this road is the 1+2 road system which allows for a pass lane of slow moving traffic.
- For the creation of an enabling operational environment for the Police, several capital projects have been undertaken in the region. At the height of such projects is the completion of the construction of the Nyae-Nyae Police Post and Barracks in the Tsumkwe Constituency at an amount of **N\$ 43,938 965.33**
- As a region surrounded by game reserve parks and game farms, one of the challenges facing us, is the preservation of protected species in terms of wildlife. During the period under review, the Police in the region managed to arrest perpetrators of protected wild life such as pangolins and other species.
- Aligned to this, is the serious crime of stock theft, which remains a huddle for farmers in both commercial and communal areas. During the period under review however, the Police managed to recover a total of 116 heads of cattle and 94 small stock with a combined of value of **N\$1,782,196.00**. In addition, wild animal carcasses inclusive of 35 Oryx, 16 Kudus and 10 Springboks worth **N\$ 188,500-00** were also recovered.
- The law enforcement also managed to intercept Seven (7) suspects with fake permits from Epukiro in Omaheke region at the Kalkfeld-Outjo-Otjiwarongo T- Junction where they were found in possession of carcasses of various game to the value of **N\$ 79, 000.00**
- Still under the Line Ministry of Safety and Security, is the Home Affairs and Immigration Directorate that focuses on registration and issuance of national documents. A welcome development in that regard has been the introduction of the electronic system such as E-Birth and E-Death Notification Systems.
- The issuance of national documents is a necessity to ensure that the citizens have access to social welfare grants. I therefore welcome Government’s efforts to reach out to ensure that all eligible citizens can have access to National Documents. In terms of ID registrations, Otjondjupa region, had set itself a target of

**5,414** for the 2021/2022 financial year of which the actual achievement was **6026**. However we still face a challenges of 5,951 uncollected IDs.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

Education is another crucial sector that we give strong attention to in our path/ journey towards prosperity under its three pillars of Quality, Equity, and Effectiveness.

- In terms of Equity that entails equal access to education, some schools in the region were upgraded while Three (3) new private schools opened in January 2022.
- The region continues to perform well in the national examinations, but however, I appeal that we enhance all efforts to ensure excellence at all levels. Due to the vastness and the fact that the region attracts more people due to its strategic central location, the demand for school space and teachers is always high. Our focus therefore is to pull together all machinery to ensure that, come early next year, we will have classrooms available to accommodate learners and teachers as well. Thus a new school called Tsaraxa-Aibes Primary School at Otjiwarongo was constructed at an amount of **N\$24,100,679.06**.
- Furthermore, through Government funding, several school project constructions were undertaken during the period of review, totalling an amount of **N\$16 898 038.00**
- Under the COVID-19 projects that ensured compliance to the COVID protocols, Otjozondjupa region had received **N\$30 777 000.00** with, which a total of **53** projects ranging from construction and renovation of classrooms and ablution facilities, were undertaken.
- Education also being a partnership has seen several projects being realized during the period under review through the assistance of partners. Such partnerships included funding assistance from the European Union amounting to **N\$3,097,927.28** out of which a total of **8** classrooms were constructed at 6 different schools across the region.
- Our gratitude goes out to the Mobile Telecommunications Company (MTC) for constructing 7 classrooms at Omatako Primary School at Tsumkwe at an amount of **N\$1 300 000.00** through the friends of Education initiative,
- While at Donatus Primary School, 4 classrooms were constructed with a total value of **N\$853 301.00** through the partnership with the Japanese Embassy.
- Furthermore, B2Gold Namibia has spent a total **N\$ 4 003 650.08** on constructing classrooms, ablution facilities, kitchen as well as provision of desks and chairs at the new Ombili Primary School at Otjiwarongo.

I urge other cooperates and companies doing business in Namibia to engage in social responsibility ventures. That way Government's efforts will be complimented and the nation will be able to meet its obligations. In terms of education however, the region still sits with a need of 8 new schools, 34 classrooms and 14 teachers.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

The welfare of the residents in terms of equality, child welfare and social well-being enjoys special attention in the region. Of utmost importance are the children, who are also the future and thus our region places great value on investment in these precious component of the future generation. The earliest capacity enhancement that is fundamental, is early childhood development. The programme targets children between the ages of 0-4 years and during the year under review 5,563 children were enrolled.

Furthermore, the subdivision social protection services supported **18 925** children through the foster, maintenance, special maintenance and vulnerable grants to the tune of **N\$ 4, 731,250** per month

In an effort to combat Gender Based Violence (GBV), the Subdivision: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment has been focusing on training community and stakeholders to create awareness on GBV. However gender based violence still remains a big problem in our society. Psychosocial support is being provided to victims of GBV.

### **Rural Projects**

The rural residents of the region continue to benefit from the rural projects supported through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. The rural projects are implemented through the Regional Council with the direct involvement of the grassroots beneficiaries, who through the Settlement and Constituency Development Committees, participates in the decision making process.

- During the period under review, an amount of **N\$1 700 000.00** was spent on projects in the different localities in the region under the rural development programmes of such as Food and Cash for Work , Micro Finance, One Region-One Initiative, Rural Employment Scheme, Region Specific Action Plan and Rural Sanitation. Our focus is to ensure that the projects are sustainable and are able to make a significant impact on the lives of the rural communities.

## **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

As a region, we continue to uphold and facilitate Government's efforts towards the welfare of the War Veterans to address their socio- economic needs and through that keeping the history of the national liberation struggle alive.

- Among the notable achievements in our region, is the completion of the Veterans Affairs Regional Office of at amount of **N\$10,496,487.78**.
- During the period under review, a total of 46 War Veterans receiving the **Subvention grant** of N\$2200.00 per month per person benefited which gives a total monthly cost of **N\$101.200.00**.
- Under the **Improvement grant** of N\$4000.00 per month per War Veteran, 47 Veterans benefited which translate to a total of **N\$188,000.00 per month**
- Psycho-social support is rendered continuously to War Veterans through Counselling services and a total of 26 Veterans benefitted from this program.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

## **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

The capacity of a region is measured against the quality of its Infrastructure, which is also a key determinant of quality-of life of the citizens. Otjozondjupa Region has adopted a model of integrated planning as a means of coordinating development.

## **ROADS INFRASTRUCTURE**

Our road network comprises of about **7 186.96 km**, of which **969.90 km** is bitumen road, while **4 442.1 km** gravel road, **1 732.5 km** is earth track, and **42.5 km** is proclaimed road. In terms of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) a provision of **N\$168,498,000.00** for the 2022/2023 Financial Year, is allocated to our region for road construction and maintenance.

## **ONGOING ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS BY ROADS AUTHORITY IN OTJOZONDJUPA REGION 2022/2023 FINANCIAL YEAR.**

### **Upgrading To Bitumen Standards:**

The strategy to roll out Low Volume Seal (LVS) is expected to reduce loss of gravel and dust and optimize available funds by reducing re-gravelling cost by 50%.

The projects under upgrade to bitumen standards includes:

- The **Windhoek – Okahandja** Section 4(a) Extension that involves the upgrading to **Dual Carriageway Freeway** Standard. This project covers a distance of 21 Kilometers and costs **N\$997, 082,367.00**
- **Okahandja – Hochfeld – Otjozondju – Okondjatu** Project, which is also a Government project, covering a distance of 196 Kilometers is on the cards. The project detailed design was done and awaiting funds availability to commence
- **Grootfontein- Tsumkwe Road** is one of the key roads upgrade receiving our outmost attention due its importance. This project is divided into 3 sections A, B &C. as we speak section A is at detail design with a completion rate of 75% and construction is expected later in this year (November). I am optimistic that the upgrading of that road to bitumen standards will create a lot of spin-offs in terms of businesses and logistics that will ultimately inject economic potential to the Tsumkwe Constituency that has lagged behind development due to its distance from essential amenities.
- The Roads Authority is also working towards the upgrade of the Branch line roads in Okakarara Constituency and village roads in Gam area after they are proclaimed.
- In terms of Low Volume Road Implementation Plan 2021/22 to 2022/23 Financial years, several roads are being targeted including 6 Kilometers of the MR 113 road at Gam, 16 kilometers of the D2102 TR 0106 road and 1.9 Kilometers of the D2162 Von Bach Dam.

#### **Low Volume Seal Projects for Otjozondjupa Region:**

In terms of road maintenance, an amount of **N\$ 26,506,736.16** has been planned for 2022/2023 Financial Year, under the **Surfacing Road maintenance budget at an amount of N\$ 3,283,404.74**. For **Unsurfaced road maintenance (blading), the budget is N\$ 21,617,940.25**.

It is also worth mentioning that Roads Authority is committed in its quest to provide and efficiently manage the road network throughout the country. However, financial constraints remain one of the major challenges the organization



is facing, that negatively affects the implementation of planned projects as per the Long to Medium Term Road Master Plan.

## **ELECTRICITY PROVISION**

- CENORED as the electricity distributor in the region has undertaken several projects during the year under review. Starting with the rural areas, CENORED managed to undertake one of the biggest developments in the Tsumkwe Constituency. Through that project, a 125 kilometre Overhead Line was successfully constructed from Maroela Boom to Manghetti Dune passing through Roodag Gate and Mkhata villages. This resulted in electricity connectivity to 30 houses, businesses, a School, Namwater Office and Police Station at Roodag gate. Similarly at Mkhata Village a school and teachers' houses were also connected to electricity while most importantly the 150 houses, Health Centre, the School and other government institutions including Namwater boreholes at Mangetti Dune that had previously been using Diesel were connected to the electricity line.
- Meanwhile, at Otumboronga Village in Okakarara Constituency, a total of 167 houses were electrified by CENORED at an amount of **N\$9,67 Million Namibia dollars.**
- Similarly at Okakarara town, 30 Build Together houses and 75 houses of the Shack Dwellers federation, were electrified at costs of N\$375 000.00 and N\$1 Million Namibia Dollars respectively.
- For Otjiwarongo, a total of 192 houses were electrified as part of the Ombili Informal Settlement Phase 5 electrification to the value of **N\$1,725 Million** while
- 90 Shack Dwellers Federation houses at Otjiwarongo were also electrified to the value of **N\$1 Million Namibia dollars.**
- Furthermore at Otavi, a total of 30 houses at New Cairo Informal Settlement, were electrified to the value of **N\$375 000** Namibia dollars and a further 75 houses at Blekkies Dorp Phase 4 to the value of **N\$1,1 Million** were electrified.
- A further 20 houses of the Shack Dwellers Federation at were electrified by CENORED at Grootfontein to the value of **N\$300 000.**

OMAKE to CENORED for Job Well Done

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

## **SEWER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT**

- In the quest to comply with environmental statutes in terms of sewer and waste management, the Regional Council has set the bar high by constructing a brick boundary wall around oxidation ponds at Kalkfeld Settlement at an amount of **N\$ 1,115,330.86**. I therefore urge that this should be forthwith be emulated in all Settlements and Towns of the region where we have open ponds as they possess a serious risk, such as drowning and even death.
- Equally at Okondjatu, the construction of two anaerobic ponds for sewerage, commenced in January 2022 and is envisaged to be completed by 23 July 2022. The project spearheaded by the Regional Council, is being done at a cost of **N\$ 2,296,414.84 (Two Million Two Hundred and Ninety Six Thousand, Four Hundred and Fourteen, Eighty Four Cents)**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

During the period under review, the region paid extra focus on the assumption of active administration of Kombat Settlement that had already been declared as a Settlement under the Regional Council in 2006. To date, Council has constructed a prefabricated Settlement Office that is currently fully operational. A permanent staff is employed as a settlement officer at Kombat, in addition the RC has entered into a 4 month agreement with Nampower to avoid electricity cut to the settlement after commitment by the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development to bail the RC with N\$ 1.8Million. as of the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 electricity supply to the settlement has become the sole responsibility of CENORED.

Under Water reticulation projects in the region, the Regional Council is busy with a water reticulation project at Gam Settlement in the Tsumkwe Constituency at an amount of **N\$ 2,700,071.69**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

In terms of land delivery which is at the core for service delivery, in our region, tremendous achievement was noted, despite the economic down turn and the COVID-19 impact. Our towns managed to service several plots to add to those that were already available prior to the year under review.

- The Okakarara Town Council managed to complete the servicing of 200 Residential plots and a Light industrial park. The Council has also entered into a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with Namibia Development Workshop to provide 500 serviced plots to accommodate low cost housing.
- At Grootfontein, the Municipality is undertaking the continuation of the construction of Services at Omulunga Extension 6 at amount of **N\$4,375,078.63**.
- Formalization of the Informal Settlement areas in towns is crucial to ensure expanded land delivery and town growth as well as secured land tenure. At Otjiwarongo the capital of the region, the focus has been on formalizing Informal Settlement areas. To this end, a total of **1 040** plots were allocated by way of re-blocking to community members in the Eie Risiko informal settlement.
- Otjiwarongo Municipality allocated two planned Extensions for the implementation of the Flexible Land Tenure System (FLTS) at the DRC Proper Extensions 2, 3 and 4.
- Otavi Town Council is busy with the construction of services on **197** plots at the New Cairo Informal Settlement Phase 2 at an amount of **N\$6,500,000.00**

## HOUSING

Alongside land delivery, the region is striving to accelerate housing delivery.

- At regional level, a project for the completion of incomplete Build Together houses at Okondjatu and Okatjoruu was undertaken through a funding of **N\$1,065,316.03** from the Trust Fund for Regional Development and Equity Provisions, under Ministry of Urban and Rural Development and involved the completion of 28 houses of which Nine 9 are at Okondjatu and other Nineteen (19) in Okatjoruu. All 9 houses at Okondjatu were successfully completed by 26 February 2022. The construction at Okatjoruu houses, is still ongoing and expected to be completed soon.
- The Municipality of Otjiwarongo has seen the construction of **282** houses under a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement, while **82** Houses are still under construction at Heroes and Freedom Park respectively. Furthermore a total of **191** houses have been constructed at Extensions **8** and **12** through a PPP initiative.

- Furthermore, the Grootfontein Municipality through the Social Housing Project has allocated **N\$11 000 000.00 (Eleven Million Namibia Dollars)** towards the construction of One Hundred (100) low cost houses to relocate the single quarter's residents.
- At Otavi, a total of Fifty Three (53) houses were constructed and completed under the Build Together programme for the period under review,
- while at Okakarara, Sixty Seven (67) houses were constructed through the Shack Dwellers Federation programme at a cost of N\$1,7 Million Namibia Dollars.

Thus the total number of houses constructed and delivered in the region during the period under review totals to **621. OMAKE**

### **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

Information Communication Technology has a great influence on the future. According to statistics, Otjozondjupa region is ranked number 9 in terms of network coverage. This is a serious concern for a vast region like Otjozondjupa. Due to its vastness, some areas of the region, specifically Tsumkwe Constituency do not have network coverage, even in terms of radio and Television coverage. For such rural communities, radio plays a critical role in the sharing of information. I therefore urge the relevant institutions to come on board and ensure that network coverage in Tsumkwe Constituency and other affected Constituencies, is addressed as a matter of urgency. Radio and Television are crucial in rural areas where in most cases literacy is also a problem, as these mediums enable information dissemination to be possible, especially for any outreach programs such as COVID-19 campaigns.

I have also noted with concern on the lack of resources for the regional teams under MICT, inhibiting them from rendering effective service delivery. I call upon the relevant Ministry to consider the vastness of our regions and distances to be covered when allocating regional budgets. The challenge is also more on lack of tailor-made modes of such materials to accommodate those with disabilities of sight and speech impediment. This may result in deprivation of information to people with such impediments.

In conclusion, I would like to appeal to the residents of Otjozondjupa region, to uphold peace and stability at all times in order to ensure a conducive environment for social and economic progression. I urge that we all hold hands in uplifting the region to greater heights. The quest for economic emancipation calls for concerted efforts and a

resilient approach. It is only when we are united that we can effectively address the social evils facing us such as unemployment, poverty and crime.

I call upon the Youth as future leaders of tomorrow to play an active role in affairs of nation building and become innovative champions by exploring sustainable approaches to a smart future.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

COVID-19 is still upon us and continues to pose a risk and threat to our region and nation at large. The Government is spending a lot of resources in order to curb and mitigate the pandemic. However, for the pandemic to reduce, the onus is on each of us. We have lost loved ones, the region and the nation has mourned due COVID-19 deaths. We cannot continue to lose more lives out of negligence or careless practices. Therefore let us do what we can to prevent further spread of the virus. Your responsible action can save a life. I appeal to every resident of the region to get vaccinated and to be a responsible citizen. Let us all participate in kicking out COVID-19 from Otjozondjupa Region and Namibia at large.

Lastly I profoundly thank my Wife and Children for their continued support, love and care at all times, I Thank the Chairperson of Regional Council Hon Marlene Mbakera, CRO Agatha Mwet, Mr. William Virore, Mrs. Cornelia Shikongo, Mr. Jackson Uerikua and all those who played a significant role in making this possible. I further want to thank you all for your support and having joined me on this very important occasion. Let us keep the flag high and continue to take Otjozondjupa to greater heights. Together we can make it!

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

THE STATE OF REGION ADDRESS FOR OTJOZONDJUPA REGION, IS SO SUBMITTED.

Thank you Otjozondjupa!

Thank you for listening Namibia!