

**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



**STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS  
BY HON JAMES UNOMASA UERIKUA,  
GOVERNOR OF OTJOZONDJUPA REGION**

**OTJOZONDJUPA REGIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE HALL  
OTJIWARONGO**

**AUGUST 09, 2024**

**Director of proceedings;**  
**Chairperson of Otjozondjupa Regional Council – Honourable Marlayn Mbakera;**  
**All Constituency Councillors and Honorable Members of Parliament;**  
**Chief Regional Officer for Otjozondjupa Region Council – Agatha Mweti;**  
**Captains of Government Agencies and Industries;**  
**Esteemed traditional and religious leaders;**  
**Fellow Namibians following us live on TV, Radio services and social media platforms;**  
**Members of the Media;**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

1. Today, I stand before you to deliver my last SORA of my current term as Regional Governor of the Great Otjozondjupa region and first without my appointing authority the Late President Dr. Hage G. Geingob, may his soul rest in peace.
2. The 04<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 will forever be a sorrowful day for the Namibian nation as it marks the passing of a legend and a pillar of this region and nation. Dr. Hage Gottfried Geingob's unwavering dedication and visionary outlook has inspired many of us in the land of the brave. Memories of his charismatic presence and infectious laughter will forever linger, reminding us to embrace life with passion and tenacity in his honor. Though he is no longer physically with us, his vibrant spirit will forever guide us and his legacy continues to inspire our personal and professional journeys. Because a man may die, but his legacy will continue through his deeds.
3. As stated by His Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba during his State of Nation Address "His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob will be remembered for, amongst other things, providing astute leadership at a time when our country needed it most. Under his leadership the principles of Accountability and Transparency were entrenched into our Governance Architecture."
4. A smooth transition of power was witnessed during the swearing in of the 4<sup>th</sup> President of the Republic of Namibia H.E Dr. Nangolo Mbumba after the passing of the late President Dr. Hage G. Geingob. This speaks greatly to the maturity of our democracy and the strength and efficiency of our government's architecture.

Honourable Chairperson,  
Fellow Namibians,

5. This State of Region Address is aligned to V2030, National Development Plans, and Harambee Prosperity Plan 1+2.

## **HPPII PILLAR 1: EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE**

6. The key focus of our region is to enhance good-governance through strict adherence to all principles of Good-Governance. One key principle is to embody a participatory approach to ensure that every sector whether Government or private, is part of the synergic efforts of prompt, effective, meaningful yet sustainable service delivery.

### **PROMOTING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNANCE**

7. Transparency and accountability are the two cornerstones of democratic governance as their primary objective is to implement the decision of the people and provide appropriate feedback. The Office of the Governor has promoted accountability and transparency in governance by ensuring that continuous engagements are held with the various Sectors in the region as well as the public at large. During such engagements, the Office of the Governor extends invitations to the media to ensure that all members of the public are kept abreast of the regional activities.

### **IMPROVED PERFORMANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY**

8. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration Safety and Security conducted a Mass Registration Campaign in the region and nationally as per their mandate, to register and issue National Documents such as Birth Certificates registration and capturing of IDs and ensuring service delivery to the public in terms of the Births, Marriages and Deaths Registration Act 81 of 1963, and Identification Act 21 of 1996.
9. The Mass Registration Campaign in Namibia is an initiative of the Ministry aimed at ensuring that all citizens have access to vital identification documents. This campaign addresses the challenges faced by many Namibians, especially those in remote and rural areas, in obtaining National Documents such as Birth Certificates and Identification Cards. The initiative is part of a broader effort to enhance national security, improve service delivery, and promote socio-economic advance.
10. Otjozondjupa being a region with a population of approximately 220811 inhabitants, faces significant challenges in ensuring that all its citizens are registered and possess necessary National documents. The lack of these documents has hindered access to essential services, including healthcare, education, and social welfare programs.
11. The registration statistics of the region are as follows:

New ID Registration: 1993  
New and Late Birth Registration: 1936  
Total Clients Served for services: 7397

## **SECURITY AND THE RULE OF LAW**

12. Security and Rule of Law is one of the strategic objectives of Effective Governance. Paramount to effective governance is creating a conducive and peaceful environment through enhancement of security and rule of law.
13. The Region received about 61 new Police recruits during the period under review.
14. The capital projects under Safety in the region includes the construction of Omatoko Police Station and Police Officers' accommodation amounting to N\$ 25,100 000-00 which was official inaugurated during February 2024 and is currently fully operational.
15. In the same vain, the Otjiwarongo Police station was renovated at an amount of N\$ 2,871 589-1. However, I would like to note here that further upgrading is still required.
16. The cases recorded in the region are as follows: 185 Assault GBH cases, 124 Stock Theft cases, 626 Theft cases, 223 House Breaking & Theft cases, 98 Robbery cases, 72 Theft Out of Motor Vehicle cases, 27 Dealing / Possession of Drugs cases, 146 Common Assault cases, 08 Murder cases, 09 Culpable Homicide cases, 32 Domestic Violence cases, 24 Rape cases, 33 Illegal Hunting cases, 46 Drinking and Driving cases, 357 Other cases accounting for 2010 cases in total in the region
17. Various cases of Contravention of Sec 4 (1) (a) of Controlled Wild Life Products and Trade Act 9/2008 as amended by Act 6/2017 were opened during the financial year with many involving possession of live pangolins or skins.
18. Traffic Policing  
3157 traffic fines with a combined fine of +/- N\$ 3,560650-00 were issued  
185 persons were arrested for Drink and Driving  
39 Accidents with 15 fatalities were reported, and 53 vehicles involved.  
209 persons were arrested on warrant of arrest for traffic offences  
183 Vehicles were suspended

19. The roads passing through the region continue to experience road carnages. Motor Vehicle Accidents or fatalities on our national roads are attributed to:

Ignorance of road traffic rules (Rejection of the Truth);  
Inconsiderate Driving;  
Over speeding and  
Animals

## **HPPII PILLAR 2: ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT**

20. Otjozondjupa has huge areas that are classified as rural. Most such rural communities in Otjozondjupa Region depend on subsistence farming for survival and thus the drought has a serious direct effect on livelihoods. The Office of the Prime Minister through a Cabinet Decision that was backed by the outcome of the previous Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA), resolved to implement the Drought Relief Programme in Otjozondjupa Region as of 1 October 2023, funded through the National Emergency Disaster Fund (NEDF).

21. A total of 15, 960 beneficiaries in the rural areas are benefiting from drought relief food in Otjozondjupa. Since the drought relief programme started, a total of 195,462 Maize Meal bags were distributed where as a total of 961,848 Tins of fish were distributed. Other Food stuffs that also form part of the drought relief package amounted to 480,924 Soya Mince Packets and 721,386 bottles of Cooking Oil being distributed.

22. Since April 2024, the peri-urban poor have are also being included in the Drought relief programme. This refer to vulnerable people who reside in Informal Settlements of towns who meet the criteria to benefit from the drought relief programme. However despite the fact that the region had registered a total of 10,300 eligible beneficiaries for Peri-Urban, Otjozondjupa is currently receiving food for only 5000 beneficiaries that is shared among the 5 towns of Namibia as per the data base of eligibility provided.

## **AGRICULTURE**

23. Agriculture is an economic strength of the region. Seventy percent of the inhabitants of our region are directly or indirectly dependent on the agriculture industry; primarily in livestock, horticulture and crop production. The maize-triangle, embedded on rich underground aquifers, produces tonnes of maize and other grain produce throughout the year, contributing to national economic growth.
24. To ensure household food security in the region and Namibia at large, about One Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty (1 450) households benefited from the subsidized agricultural production inputs provided through the Dry Land Crop Production Programme (DCPP) and the Namibia Agriculture Mechanization and Seed Improvement Project (NAMSIP). A total of 2.5 tonnes of pearl millet (Mahangu), 2.7 tonnes of maize and 1.5 tonnes of cowpeas seeds were subsidized under these interventions to a combined total of 1010 households in Otjozondjupa region.
25. Only a combined Three hundred and One (301) households benefited from the subsidized mechanized services which includes ploughing, ripping, planting and weeding services totalling to Five hundred and Eighty-Three hectares (583 ha) through the Dry Land Crop Production Programme during the previous cropping season. This reduction in number of households benefitting under this Government service was due to poor rainfall performance and distribution experienced in the region and nation at large.
26. The Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform through the Small Stock Development and Distribution in Communal Areas (SSDDCAs) distributed Eighty-four (84) goats to vulnerable rural households in the Okakarara and Tsumkwe constituency. Each household received twenty (20) female goats and One (1) male goat through a revolving scheme from beneficiaries that received the same number of goats in the 2019/20 Financial Year. Additionally, the same beneficiaries were capacitated in small stock management and they received fencing material, veterinary supplies and husbandry tools to aid sustainable production. The aim is to assist rural vulnerable households to gain a sustainable means of income generation and food supply which will improve their social and economic well-being.
27. Furthermore, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform assisted Forty-nine (49) horticultural farmers in Otjozondjupa by subsidizing inputs (i.e., fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, etc.), and irrigation equipment/material (water tanks, drip-system, submersible pumps, etc.) to a total amount of Six hundred and five

Thousand, Namibian dollars (N\$605 000) through the Horticulture Value Chain Development Scheme during the period being reviewed.

28. Under the Poultry Value Chain Development Scheme which is an intervention still being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform, about Two hundred and fifty-one Thousand Namibian dollars (N\$251 000) was utilized by twenty-nine (29) poultry producers in Otjozondjupa region where they were assisted with subsidized feed, production stock, material for housing and veterinary supplies.
29. The region alongside with Omaheke and Hardap regions are being used to pilot the Dairy Value Chain Development Scheme which aims to make Namibia self-sufficient in milk and dairy products through modernization of our rural dairy industry. Importantly, being a small-producer and market-oriented programme, it will impact positively on income generation, employment creation and nutrition status of our rural communities. An amount of Four hundred and Seventy and Eighty-eight Thousand Namibian dollars (N\$470 088.00) was utilized in the region towards supporting farmers. The support is for animal feed, vaccines, value addition, preservation equipment including cold storage tanks, milking machines, including capacity building for aspiring dairy producers, amongst others. About Thirty-one (31) farmers were assisted under this program in the Otjozondjupa region.
30. To ensure sustainable agricultural production in the region, the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform in collaboration with other stakeholders has provided extension services to about One thousand Two hundred and Eighty Two (1 282) farmers' through trainings, information days, farm visits, exposure visits and demonstration days, amongst others and farmers were informed on various practices and technologies with emphasis on climate-smart agriculture.
31. In order to increase food production and productivity at national & household level the Ministry of Agriculture Water Land Reform procured and distributed thirteen (10) tractors of various horsepower with matching implements to Agricultural offices in the region through the Namibia Agriculture Mechanization & Seed Improvement Project (NAMSIP). The region is also going to receive additional fourteen (14) tractors with matching implements (ploughing, planters, mowers, rakes, balers, etc.) during the current financial year. This will take a total number of tractors and matching implements to a total of 32 in the Otjozondjupa region.

32. Contractual Farm Machinery Operators who are responsible to deliver the subsidized land preparation services using the above machineries completed intensive 3 weeks training & are deployed to deliver the services while the Government will be responsible for their remuneration. Farmers are only responsible to pay a subsidized \$250 per hectare under rain-fed & irrigated systems.

33. Additionally, under the same intervention, the region received 100 hammer mills, 170 seedling transplanters, 35 hand walking tractors & 160 weeding cultivators. This small machineries are being loaned out to farmers at very subsidized prices ranging from \$20 to \$100 per day. This will not only increase production but also mitigate impact of drought farmers are experiencing. Please cost our agricultural offices.

34. This intervention will enable farmers to complete farming operations in a timely manner & will also increase productivity and reduce the cost of cultivation.

35. For this Financial year Otjondjupa was allocated the following: (Subsidized programs)

Dairy Value Chain received 1 million dollars for \$1 225 000.00

Horticulture Value Chain received \$700 000.00

Poultry Value Chain received \$400 000.00

DCPP received \$2 799 316.00

Conservation Agriculture received \$240 000.00

36. These funds are decentralized and are being administered locally here by the Ministry of Agriculture (DAPEES) & the Regional Council.

37. Farmers are urged to visit Agricultural offices for more information.

## SME FINANCING STRATEGY

38. Business and Trade activities in the region are facilitated through the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade that is mandated to develop and manage the regulatory framework of economic promotion and development. As a region we advocate for an increase in manufacturing industries, so as to create employment and maximize on value-adding activities.



39. The Ministry of Industrialization and Trade's regional office successfully disseminated information about a cooperative Market Access and Support initiative between the American Embassy and the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade through its affiliation with the Head Office (Directorate of Commerce).
40. The Ministry of Industrialization and Trade of Namibia, in conjunction with the United States African Development Foundation (USADF), has extended an invitation to Namibian cooperatives, producer groups, and MSMEs to submit proposals for grant financing and local support for creative solutions to expand their capacities to enhance food security, elevate the quality of locally produced goods, boost incomes, generate employment opportunities, and establish sustainable market-based growth in the Otjozondjupa Region.

### GREEN INDUSTRIALIZATION

41. Through strategic partnerships, and in an effort to promote diverse economies and sustainable use of used-water resource in line with the Strategic Plan, the Municipality of Otjiwarongo has embarked upon a wastewater treatment plant and Waste-to-Energy plant project funded by the African Development Bank through the Middle-Income Countries Technical Assistance Fund (MICTAF) and the African Water Facility (AWF) to the tune of just over N\$ 20 million. The project was launched last year in September and Council is currently in the process of shortlisting a Transactional Advisor and External experts to assist the Council in this regard. The project aims to address key strategic goals, which are namely, Sustainable Environment and Public Safety, Socioeconomic Advancement, Business Innovation and Sustainable Finances, and lastly Operational Efficiency and Governance.

### HPPII PILLAR 3: SOCIAL PROGRESSION

42. As you might be aware, our region is divided into four (4) health districts namely: Otjiwarongo including Otavi and surrounding farms, Okakarara, Grootfontein including Tsumkwe and Okahandja that includes Ovitoto and surrounding farms.

### IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Hon. Chairperson,  
Fellow Namibians

43. The fundamental focus of Social Progression in our region is to ensure that every resident has access to health facilities. During the period under review, Two specialists were recruited to Otjiwarongo District Hospital; under the specialization of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pediatrician. In addition more Medical Officers were employed in the regions across all Four district hospitals in the region. The Medical Officers were stationed at the following health Centres; Otavi Health Centre, Osire Clinic and Mangetti Dune Health Centre.
44. Additionally, Thirteen nurses at health facilities in the region were recruited (Gam 2, Omatako 1, Poly 1, Otjiwarongo Hospital 5, Otavi 1, Kalkfeld 1 and Otjozondju 1). Further, the Mangetti Dune Health Centre, Gam Clinic and Nurses Home at Ovitoto Clinic, were renovated.
45. In terms of Malaria prevention, the spraying program was only conducted in districts that are malaria prevalent with the percentage of sprayed areas being 81% for Okakarara and 67% for Grootfontein.

## LAND REFORM

46. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, as per its mandate, acquired One (1) farm for resettlement purposes which has been divided into Three (3) farming units and measuring Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty- seven point Nine Zero Nine One hectares (5567.9091 Ha) all together. The Ministry spent a total of Fourteen Million, Four hundred and Seventy Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty Three Namibian Dollars and Seventy Cents (N\$14 476 563.70) for the Financial Year 2023/2024 to acquire the resettlement farm in Otjozondjupa Region.
47. In the period under review, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform advertised Three (3) government resettlement farms, namely, Farm Omukandi No. 64 which was acquired in the financial year under review, and in addition, Three other farms, namely Farm Hoefeld No. 161 and Farm Hoffmanstal (Wallcourt) No. 99, which were already acquired in the 2022/23 Financial year and advertised, for objections. One farm which was transferred from the then Ministry of Agriculture, is Farm Otjisazu Noord No. 264, of which the occupation of the landless Namibians is being formalized.
48. The Resettlement Farms were advertised in the local media inviting interested Namibians countrywide to apply for consideration for resettlement under the

Government's Resettlement Programme. All Ten (10) farming units of the four (4) resettlement farms indicated earlier were successfully allotted to landless Namibians, of which five (5) Units were allotted to applicants from Otjozondjupa Region, and the remaining five (5) Units were allotted to applicants from Khomas, Oshana, Kavango west, Zambezi and Kunene Regions respectively. It is my sincere hope that more deserving residents from Otjozondjupa Region will be resettled in the 2024/2025 financial year. Total applications received was One Thousand Two Hundred and Sixty-Eight (1268).

49. The Otjozondjupa Regional Resettlement Committee's recommended to the Commission a total of Thirty six (36) resettlement applicants and managed to get Five (5) approved applications for allotment by the Minister. The Hon. Minister also approved Six (6) individual applicants for allotment recommended from the following regions: Erongo (2), Khomas (1), Kavango west (1), Oshikoto (1) and Ohangwena (1) Regions. This makes up a total of eleven (11) landless Namibians resettled that make up Five (5) male and Six (6) female beneficiaries.
50. I am also pleased to note that the total amount of resettlement leaseholds paid for the financial year 2023/2024 under review is Two Hundred and Eighty-Eight Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty-Nine Namibian Dollars and Seventy-Two Cents (N\$ 288, 549.72).
51. Ladies and gentlemen, this is an increase of Twenty-Seven percent (27%) in revenue collection from the Two Hundred and Twenty-Six Thousand, Four Hundred and Eighty-Eight Namibian Dollars, Eighty-Five Cents (N\$226, 488.85) collected during the 2022/2023 Financial Year.
52. This money will assist the Government to acquire more farms for resettlement and contribute towards infrastructure rehabilitation. I, therefore, thank all resettlement farmers who have committed to paying their lease fees and also urge all resettlement beneficiaries in the Otjozondjupa Region to farm productively, adhere to their lease agreements and to continue paying their lease fees on time.
53. Under Group Resettlement, the region had procured Neu Sommerau resettlement farm in 2001. As per the guidance of the Master Plan, the Government continues to support the project with farm implements and during the period under review, spent a total of Three Hundred and Sixteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Sixty Four Namibian Dollars and Eleven cents (N\$316 864.11) on procurement of diesel, fertilizers and servicing of the project tractors and implements.

54. In addition, I am delighted to note that the Neu Sommerau Project beneficiaries met the government halfway and collectively contributed a total of One Hundred thousand and Two Hundred Namibian Dollars (N\$100 200.00) which was used to procure additional diesel and maize seeds which was ploughed on seventy five (75) hectares of land at the project. This has shown that the beneficiaries can be self-reliant.
55. Regrettably, the project could not derive any harvest due to poor rainfall experienced. I therefore wish to call upon the Ministry to consider initiating innovative strategies, such as introducing modern farming systems in order to ensure productivity of the project, and to further engage development partners to assist the project with training of beneficiaries, production support and more inputs as per the Master Plan, in order to have the project at maximum production, to ensure food security.
56. In the Tsumkwe Constituency the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform has developed water supply infrastructure (core farm infrastructure) through the Programme for Communal Land Development (PCLD). PCLD aims to develop communal areas through investment in core farm infrastructure to improve livelihoods through improved agricultural activities. Construction of water supply infrastructure in Gam.
57. During the 2024/25 Fiscal year, the Ministry will officially hand over water supply infrastructure developed in the 2022/23 Fiscal year to the tune of N\$ 23,437, 051.75, to the beneficiaries.
58. Eight (8) villages in the Gam Communal area currently have access to the water supply infrastructures. The villages are namely: Otjiserandu, Tura, Otjiuamapeta, Okorohe, Ondjombo Yateku, Omangete, Ohaama and Otjiyere
59. Further, during the 2023/24 Fiscal year, The Ministry through the PCLD extended advisory services to more than 288 farmers in Tsumkwe-West (170 farmers) and Gam (118 farmers) communal areas. The advisory services focused on farming aspects such as farm management, animal husbandry and rangeland management.

Hon Chairperson, fellow Namibians

60. Communal land rights registration is one of the programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. Because the availability of land is so vital for our survival, it is essential that all people have access to land and they have

security of tenure (land rights). Before the enactment of the Communal Land Reform Act (Act. No. 5 of 2002).

61. During the 2023/2024 financial year, the Otjozondjupa Communal Land Board registered a total of One Hundred and Fifty (150) customary land rights.
62. The Land Reform Programme in the region is faced with a high demand for farming land.
63. As you may be aware, the Government initiated the consultations on the revised Resettlement Criteria developed as a result of the National Resettlement Policy 2023. It is my sincere hope that the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform has sought sufficient advice and inputs which will assist on the efficient and effective land redistribution to our landless Namibians
64. I therefore urge all the inhabitants of Otjozondjupa Region and Namibia at large to be patient while the Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform continues to strive to implement the Land Conference Resolutions on some of the pertinent issues on land reform in the Country.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

Hon. Chairperson,  
Fellow Namibians,

65. The Office of the Governor with Sponsorship from Rani Group paid registration fees for thirty (30) students from the region at various tertiary institutions to the tune of hundred thousand (N\$100 000.00) in total.
66. Other support through the Governor's Office included support towards Career Fairs in the region through an amount of Twenty Thousand Namibian dollars (N\$20 000.00) donated, to Ritja Career Fair Organization.
67. Three hundred (300) food parcels to the amount of N\$63 498.00 were handed over within the region during the festive season from 20 – 26 December 2023.
68. The Municipality of Otjiwarongo is dedicated to supporting its pensioners and indigent residents through various programs and initiatives designed to ease their financial burdens and improve their quality of life. One of the key measures implemented by the council is the provision of rebates on basic services. These

rebates ensure that essential services such as water, sewer, and waste management remain affordable for the most vulnerable members of the community. With the rebates, council provides 3,000 liters of free water each month to qualifying households.

69. The Municipality of Otjiwarongo's Multi-Purpose Centre continues to play a pivotal role in responding to social welfare issues in the town of Otjiwarongo in particular. Among its various programs, the Centre runs a feeding program specifically aimed at Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVCs). This program ensures that OVCs receive nutritious meals, contributing to their overall well-being and development. Furthermore, the Centre assists with the payment of school uniforms, toiletries, and stationery for OVCs, ensuring that they have the necessary resources to succeed in their education. By addressing these fundamental needs, the council helps remove barriers to education and promotes equal opportunities for all children in the community.

70. In addition to supporting OVCs, the Multi-Purpose Centre runs a Home-Based Care program focused on assisting patients suffering from cancer, tuberculosis (TB), and HIV AIDS. This program provides crucial care and support to individuals who are unable to access regular medical facilities. This comprehensive approach ensures that patients receive the necessary care while remaining in the comfort of their homes, thereby enhancing their quality of life and providing much-needed relief to their families.

71. Together with its stakeholders, B2Gold Namibia, the Olthaver & List Groups' Otavi Fontein, as well as the World Food Programme, Otavi Town Council intends to undertake a program of urban agriculture. The project cost is N\$15 million but phase which is expected to commence this year, 2024/25 will cost N\$5 000 000.00

Hon. Chairperson,  
Fellow Namibians,

72. The Rural Development Programmes supported by Government through the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, continue to be a salvation in sustaining livelihoods in rural areas as defined in the Rural Development Policy of 2012 through provision of basic social and economic services supported through various development initiatives.

73. During the period under review, a total of N\$3,169,148.35 was spent on the implementation of Twenty four (24) developmental projects under Four (4)

programmes namely; Micro Finance Scheme, Food/Cash for Work, Region Specific Action Plan for Food Security and Rural Sanitation.

74. Under the Micro Finance Scheme, eleven (11) projects have been implemented in the region whereas the total amount spend was N\$149,881.00. Pertaining to the Food/Cash for Work programme, a total of N\$12,823.83 was spend on the Rehabilitation of Okangeama Water Point in Okakarara Constituency whereas an amount of N\$66,878.06 was spent on Auuns Gardening project in Grootfontein Constituency ensuring and strengthening food security to most vulnerable societies. Henceforth, total value under the said programme was N\$79,701.89.
75. A further N\$217,201.06 was spent on acquiring livestock in Omatako Constituency to four (4) beneficiaries that each received twenty goats and a ram as well as construction of a kraal for a dairy project in Okakarara Constituency under the Region Specific Action Plan for Food Security programme.
76. Under the Rural Sanitation programme, Ministry of Urban and Rural Development allocated an amount of N\$1,346,000.00 for the period under review and seven (7) dry pit latrines toilets commonly referred to as VIP toilets were constructed and handed over to beneficiaries in Okahandja Constituency specifically at Rudenau in the Okahandja Constituency to a total value of N\$123,917.10, whereas the council resolved to further construct Two hundred and twenty five (225) rural toilets in the region with funds allocated for the year under review together with savings from the previous financial year.
77. From these toilets, Hundred and Sixteen toilets (116) toilets will be constructed in the Okakarara Constituency and the remaining Hundred and nine (109) in Tsumkwe Constituency. As a region, we are proud to have embraced the new approach of constructing rural toilets under Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) as adopted in the Harambee Prosperity Plan II under the Social Progression Pillar, Goal 2 that amplifies on Delivery of Urban Land, Housing and Sanitation. A commitment has already been made for Okashana Rural Development Centre to supply materials.

## EDUCATION

Hon Chairperson, fellow Namibians

78. Our region embraces, education and knowledge empowerment as a tool to enable us to have a secured future in terms of knowledge, skills and growth. The Directorate of Education established two (2) new state schools namely: Otjiwarongo Project Primary School and Orwetoveni Project Secondary School in

Otjiwarongo Circuit, which opened their doors to learners on the 15 July 2024, when the school re-opened for the second semester.

79. The regional Education Directorate further reported the completion of additional facilities at Otavi Primary School in Otavi of which practical completion was done in January 2024 at tune of N\$51,166,019.58. Construction of new multi-purpose hall at Tsaraxa-Aibes Primary School was completed, during the current financial year at tune N\$8,753,221.00. Construction of 35 Classrooms and 7 Ablution facilities were also completed and currently in use at the following schools during 2023/24 financial year: Okahandja Project SS, Tsaraxa-Aibes PS, Otjiwarongo Project PS and Orwetoveni Project SS
80. A total of 42 classrooms are currently under construction which is done by August 26 Construction (PTY) Ltd, a public entity as per the granted treasury exemption at the following schools in the region: New Primary, Okahandja Project Senior School, Osire Secondary School, Otjiwarongo Project Primary School and Orwetoveni Project Senior Secondary School.
81. The Ministry has also availed an amount of N\$11,375,484.00 towards the renovation and repair of schools whose facilities were damaged by windstorm namely: Okakarara Primary School, Okahandja Secondary and Kalfeld Primary School during the current financial year.
82. However, the Directorate is still faced with inadequate and dilapidated educational infrastructure.
83. Shortage of hostel facilities also poses a serious challenge to Education, resulting in many learners being accommodated in unsafe environments, which negatively affect their studies and performance.

## YOUTH

84. Youth empowerment is crucial to ensure that the Nation's future is ascertained in terms of sustainability and continuity. Key to youth empowerment is the instilment of patriotic values and civic responsibilities to the youth.
85. The Ministry of Sport, Youth, and National Service, through the Directorate of Youth Development, has received funding from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to implement a program in the Otjozondjupa Region. This program, known as the Government-to-Government (G2G) DREAMS initiative, it is aimed at empowering young people, particularly adolescent girls and young women and



men, through targeted training and education initiatives designed to enhance their skills, knowledge, and future opportunities.

Hon Chairperson, fellow Namibians

86. The Ministry of Youth and Sport has successfully delivered a comprehensive curriculum that includes modules on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Economic Empowerment, and Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE). To date, a total of 81 adolescent girls and young women and men from three constituencies of Otjozondjupa Region have completed this training. The program has been successfully delivered in the following constituencies:

Constituencies	Number of Participants
Otjiwarongo	27
Okakarara	27
Otavi	27

87. In response to the success of the initial phase of the project, the Directorate of Youth Development will expand its training efforts to include the Tsumkwe constituency in the next quarter of the DREAMS. This strategic extension aims to reach more adolescent girls, young women and young men, ensuring that the program's benefits are more widely distributed and addressing the unique challenges faced by communities in this area.

88. The Namibia Youth Credit Scheme (NYCS) is a loan guarantee program initiated by the Ministry of Sport, Youth, and National Service. This program is designed to provide financial support to unemployed and out-of-school youth who lack the necessary collateral to access loans from traditional banking institutions. The NYCS plays a crucial role in fostering entrepreneurship and economic empowerment among the youth by enabling them to start or expand their businesses.

Hon Chairperson, fellow Namibians

89. In December 2023, a total of 25 youth from across the seven constituencies of the Otjozondjupa region were trained at the Rietfontein National Youth Service (NYS) center. The training equipped these young people with essential skills in business management, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship, preparing them to successfully manage their ventures. Following this training, a total amount of N\$164,017.00 was disbursed in May 2024 to assist these young entrepreneurs in

either starting new businesses or upgrading existing ones. The disbursement of funds was allocated as follows:

Constituencies	Number of Beneficiaries	Amount Disbursed (N\$)
Okakarara	5	N\$24,000.00
Otjiwarongo	5	N\$ 24,000.00
Grootfontein	8	N\$ 63,830.00
Tsumkwe	3	N\$ 23,000.00
Otavi	1	N\$ 8,000.00
Okahandja	1	N\$ 7,060.00
Kombat	1	N\$ 7,427.00

Hon Chairperson, fellow Namibians

90. The impact of the Namibia Youth Credit Scheme is already being felt in the Otjozondjupa region, as these young entrepreneurs begin to establish themselves in the local economy. The program not only empowers individuals but also contributes to community development and economic growth. However, the success of the NYCS is not without its challenges. Ensuring that beneficiaries are adequately supported throughout their entrepreneurial journey, from training to business implementation, is crucial. The Ministry is actively exploring ways to enhance ongoing support, including mentorship programs, follow-up training sessions, and access to financial resources.

## SPORTS

91. Otjozondjupa region under the Office of the Governor held its first ever PstBet Governor's Cup in Okahandja in September 2023. The event was sponsored by PstBet with an amount of Seventy Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$70 000.00). PstBet has committed themselves to a sponsorship of Two Hundred and Ten Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$210 000.00) for a period of three (3) years which started in 2023. The Governor's Cup had all seven constituencies competing against each other in male football, female football, boxing and netball from where the regional team was selected to represent the region during the PstBet Governor's Cup still to be held.
92. The region further participate in competitions such as: Integrated Physical Education and School Sports (IPESS), Region 5 National Youth Games, Namibian Newspaper Cup, Debmarine.

## URBAN LAND DELIVERY, HOUSING AND SANITATION

Hon Chairperson, fellow Namibians

93. The Grootfontein Municipality constructed a total of 65 social houses during the period under review, to cater for the relocation of residents from the Single quarters. The construction is at a total amount of N\$4,304,465.04.
94. Continuation of construction of services at Omulunga Extension 6 at Grootfontein to the cost of N\$7.3 million has been completed. Council is in the final stage to have the first Grootfontein Spatial Development Framework /Structure Plan in terms of the new Urban and Regional Planning Act 2024-2044 that will be a guiding tool for development for the next 20 years. A total of 1880 ervens of Omulunga Extension 10 & 11 (Reception Area) have been planned and surveyed and Council is sourcing for financial resources to install bulk infrastructure services such as sewer, electricity, and water.
95. Further on in Grootfontein, Council has allocated ninety-nine (99) residential erven at Omulunga Extension 7& 8 to low and middle income earners while another 24 serviced residential erven were allocated to middle and high income earners of Grootfontein Extension 4.
96. In terms of Infrastructure services, Grootfontein Municipality appointed two contractors to rehabilitate the main sewer lines at a cost of N\$1, 5 million. Council is further sourcing funds to build a wall around the sewerage dams for safety and compliance to environmental statutes.
97. Meanwhile, the Municipality of Grootfontein, has commenced with the process to construct the first ever Fire Station at the town following the allocation of N\$4.5 million from central Government.
98. Okahandja Municipality has also completed the layout, and appointed consultants for design, management and documentation for the construction of a new fire station.

Hon Chairperson, fellow Namibians

99. In terms Land delivery, the Municipality of Otjiwarongo Council is in the process of re-blocking Eie Risiko Informal area into five (5) extensions of formally planned land and conferring land tenure. The project for a Flexible land tenure system to be implemented in the informal areas is currently underway including the establishment of a Reception Area to enable the Council to accommodate a Waiting List of +-5000 residents.
100. The Otjiwarongo Council have since approved to alienate 104 plots to Shack Dwellers Federation (SDFN) for the purpose of housing development.

Following their application for additional land, an offer has been issued to SDFN for the allocation of an additional 100 erven in Orwetoveni Extension 15 at N\$ 50 per square meter. Total purchase price of N\$ 3,151,561.44 to be paid over ten (10) years.

101. To promote efficient and sustainable use of townlands, the Otjiwarongo Municipality, has embarked upon the initiative to develop its camp 3 in its townlands and to demarcate it into smaller agricultural plots. The council sourced grants from various donors such as; SSC, WFP, and well as UNDP for support towards this initiative.
102. In terms of the Build Together Programme; fourteen (14) out of the 41 houses have so far been completed under Phase 12 at Otjiwarongo with the completion of the rest expected soon.
103. The Municipality of Otjiwarongo and Namibia Housing Enterprise (NHE) will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding for a partnership and cooperation arrangement on the provision of affordable housing to the residents of Otjiwarongo through the Informal Settlement Upgrading Project (ISUP). The proposed partnership is aimed at constructing affordable houses in Orwetoveni Extension 8 as well as Heroes Park Extension.
104. Land Development in partnership with Development Workshop Namibia, construction of bulk services in on going- due date 16 August 2024. The balance in the FNB Development Workshop Otjiwarongo joint account is N\$ 5,322,324.89.
105. The Okahandja Municipality commenced with consultations for Extension 10 in May 2024 this included design, documentation and Supervision For Water, Sewer, Roads and Stormwater as well as Upgrading Sewer Bulk Main Line-Oshetu to the Oxidation Ponds.

#### HPPII PILLAR 4: INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Hon Chairperson, fellow Namibians

106. Infrastructure development at regional level is spearheaded by the Otjozondjupa Regional Council under its mission to spearhead integrated planning and oversee implementation of socio-economic and physical infrastructure development, for the upliftment of the living standards of the people of Otjozondjupa Region. The development budget is a public investment geared towards infrastructure and other development activity funding. For the financial

year 2023/24, a total allocation of N\$ 10,161,000.00 was allocated to Otjozondjupa Regional Council for the following projects:

- Construction of water reticulation in Gam
- Construction of Services Infrastructure in Okandjira
- Construction of Services Infrastructure in Kalkfeld
- Construction of Services Infrastructure in Okamatapati
- Construction of Services Infrastructure in Okondjatu
- Construction of Otjozondjupa Regional Office Park

107. In terms of water provision through boreholes, Rural Water Supply drilled 18 boreholes in total, of which 8 were unsuccessful. 5 boreholes were successfully installed while 13 existing boreholes were rehabilitated successfully. Construction of a 41.6 km pipeline through the MAWLR PCLD project was completed in the Tsumkwe Constituency at a cost of N\$ 23,400,000.00.

108. Otjozondjupa Regional Office Park was completed in February 2023(2022/23) financial year and was in defect liability period which ended in February 2024 (2023/24). Overall expenditure for construction of 3 (three) triple storey buildings and conference Centre is N\$146,520,446.80. The Office Park was officially inaugurated yesterday 08 August 2024.

109. Additionally an amount of N\$2,500,000 was allocated to the Regional Council under Informal Settlement Upgrading Programme. The funds were allocated to Kalkfeld Settlement for provision of water to Dinotsdal location and the New Informal extension (Kalkfeld Extension 1). The work was divided in two Lots and thus two contractors were appointed to construct water reticulation services. Furthermore, this services will connect 239 plots in Kalkfeld Extension 1 and 42 plots in Dinotsdal Township at a combined cost of N\$ 2,262,245.80.

## WATER

Hon Chairperson, fellow Namibians

110. Otjiwarongo Municipality and the Development Workshop of Namibia entered into an MOU for the provision for Bulk Services to Extensions 24 and 25 in Orwetoveni. This project is proudly funded by the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development in line with the annual budget allocation for projects availed to the value of N\$ 1.6 million. This project is already at the Design Stage with the intention of the first Phase of construction aimed to provide water provision to Extensions 24 and 25 of Orwetoveni that are to be developed with the assistance

of Strategic Development Partners, Development Workshop Namibia. Furthermore, this same phase shall also make water provisions to the planned Reception Area to accommodate relocated residents in the informal area awaiting formal plot allocation.

111. The Otavi Town Council has contracted Valomek Civil cc to construct bulk water infrastructure. The project includes the construction of an elevated water tank as well as connection of existing boreholes to the town's bulk water infrastructure. The council aims at supplying 30% of its on water to the residents. This is done to reduce the cost of bulk water purchases as well as reduce the debt that council owes to the utility - Namwater. The Project cost is at N\$ 6 500 000.00 and the project is expected to be completed during the 2024/2025 Financial Year.
112. Carried on from FY2023/2024, this project will enable the Otavi Town Council to supply a large portion of the bulk water to its residents. This project is estimated to cost a total of N\$7 500 000.00 of which N\$ 5 000 000.00 was secured from B2Gold.
113. Further in Otavi, the council plans to provide sewer and water service to one of its newly formalized settlements (New Cairo). The residents are currently not connected to the sewer network and are being provided with water via community prepaid standpipes. The Project budget for this financial year is N\$6 500 000.00.

#### NAMWATER WATER RETICULATION PROJECTS

114. Otjiwarongo Scheme water supply Extension 5 x Bore holes drilled. Geohydrology to provide water quality & quantity results to Mechanical & Engineering for design /connection.
115. Kalkfeld Extension 3 x new Bore holes connected, but 2 x Boreholes are faulty. The Boreholes cages to be removed to access site for replacing the pumps at Rhodenhoff Bore holes.
116. Kombat Bore holes 10 x Bore holes are connected and pump water to the canal for supplementing the supply from the Northern sources.
117. Berg Aukas Water supply Berg Aukas Mine Shaft is running with 3 pump sets. The 4th pump will be connected with stronger electrical cables to carry the voltage required.
118. Otjituuo to Elandspan Water supply Capacity increase 2 x pumps installed at the pump station, but 1 x pump used to run at a time for certain hours on 1400 Revolutions per minute (RPM). With the increase in capacity, both pumps are set to run at same time at a rate of 1000 rpm and 800 rpm = 1800 rpm to pump more water in the lines. Places like Ozonjanga started receiving water.

119. Goblenz Water Supply to extension to open land Water Supply  
Optimization - Namwater is sourcing funds for the project of connecting 5 x Bore holes from Goblenz and extending further afield.

Power Supply at: Rooidag  
M'Kata

Mangetti

1 x Bore hole connected at Rooidag Gate.

Power supply applied for 2 x Bore holes at M'Kata- CENORED to provide Quotations.

Power supply applied for 4 x new Bore holes + 2 x existing Bore holes at Mangetti Dune- CENORED provided Quotations.

120. Tsumkwe Extension & Upgrade 6 x Bore holes drilled and six power supply points applied. CENORED provided quotations for power supply. 1x Bore hole is connected to run on both gen-set electricity supply & solar system to supplement the current water supply on an emergency measure.

## 121. ENERGY

Hon Chairperson, fellow Namibians

122. Construction of Electrical services and provision of Electrical Reticulation for Omulunga Extension B in Grootfontein was completed following the suspension of the contract in 2022. This will provide electrical connection to 325 ervens. This project was completed at the cost of N\$12.3 Million.

123. 45 houses in Blakkies Dorp LV in Grootfontein received electricity connection and streetlights in April 2024 at a cost of N\$ 907,661.10. 92 houses in Ombili Phase 8 in Otjiwarongo was electrified in June 2024 at cost of N\$ 1,883,537.00. 21 houses in Okondjatu 21 got electrified through Otjozondjupa Regional Council at a cost of N\$ 295,993.50 while 19 houses in Kalkveld are in progress. 5 Build Together & Kamapunga houses in Okakarara received electricity supply at a cost of N\$ 339,886.85. 117 houses in the Saamstaan/Ekunde Extension 5 in Okahandja received electricity supply of N\$ 759,781.00. 100 houses in Otavi New Cairo were electrified at a cost of N\$ 1,019,824.53, which was completed June 2024. 100 houses under the Shackdweller Federation in Kalkveld received electricity supply at a cost of N\$ 2,167,180.89 and this was completed in September 2023. 117 houses in Saamstaan/Ekunde Extension 5 of Okahandja received electricity connections at the cost of N\$ 759,781.00.

## ROADS

Hon Chairperson, fellow Namibians

124. Road infrastructure plays a pivotal role in the development of any community and region. The roads in the region are facilitated through the Roads Authority and the Road Fund Administration that provide funds to maintain roads in towns and settlements.
125. It is against this background and in line with Council's Strategic Objective 8.1 "Spatial Planning & Infrastructure Development" that the Municipality of Otjiwarongo ran an Open National Bid to commence phase II to Rehabilitate and Realign Sections of Rikumbi Kandanga and Henk Willems to interlocking standards. The project is a joint effort by the Council and the Roads Fund Administration (RFA), which was necessitated after the substantial damage caused by heavy-laden vehicles. The upgrading of the road will serve as an alternative route to relieve the high traffic currently experienced on Dr. Libertine Amathila and includes the construction of stormwater reticulation totalling N\$ 6,240,172.
126. On 20 September 2023, a Tripartite Agreement was signed between the Road Fund Administration (RFA), Roads Authority of Namibia (RA), and the Otjiwarongo Municipality, marking a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts to enhance the town's road infrastructure. The agreement, valued at N\$ 71 million, spans three years and aims to fund critical road maintenance and rehabilitation projects.
127. At Grootfontein a total stretch of 8-kilometer bitumen road was rehabilitated with slurry as part of maintenance of the road infrastructure. A section of 500 meters in Sam Nujoma drive in Omulunga Township in Grootfontein has been upgraded from bitumen to interlocks standard. The upgrade was necessary because the road was washed away by the water due to the heavy rainfall that the town experiences.
128. With the funds from the Road Fund Administration, Otavi council has undertaken its annual road maintenance programme for the FY2023/2024. The projects included heavy blading and re-gravelling of roads, patching of sealed roads as well as road marking. The project cost is N\$950 000.00. For this financial



year, council plans to maintain roads covering seven kilometers at a cost of N\$1 090 000.00

129. The Roads Authority projects envisaged in the region:

M0074 Grootfontein – Tsumkwe Road Phase 1 (Grootfontein to Roodag Gate). The tarring of the gravel road between Tsumkwe Constituency and Grootfontein covering a stretch of more than 300 Kilometres is a milestone for the region, with the first phase expected to commence.

M0112 (Hochveld – Okondjatu) N\$5 million was made available by the Ministry for the design of the road. The tender for the design will be out end of August.

M0117 (Okakarara – Coblenz) the contractor has re-graveled 38.5km

M0115 (Okakarara – Okondjatu) the contractor is yet to establish as the RA plans to re-gravel the 35km long section from Okakarara to Okahitua which is currently in a very poor condition and highly trafficked.

#### HPPII PILLAR 5: BILATERAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

Hon. Chairperson, Ladies and Gentlemen,

130. In October 2023, I was invited to the Federal Republic of Germany to attend and speak at the 14th International Circular Economy Week in Birkenfield. The Circular Economy Week is an annual event that brings together key business and government decision makers as well as financial institutions and technology suppliers. ICEW is also a dedicated knowledge event that provides institutions the opportunity to share with the international communities their experiences, expertise, knowledge and achievements in the areas of renewable energy and sustainable resources management and green business. It also serves as a platform to connect global leaders and like-minded professionals in the respective domains.

131. The organizers of the ICEW intend on hosting a Circular Economy Week in Otjiwarongo, Otjozondupa region. Which would make Otjiwarongo the first African country to ever host it should all go according to plan.

132. In July 2024 I was invited to participate as a speaker and distinguished Honouree during the 9th ALM Africa Summit in London with the theme – “Africa Unleashed: Navigating Disruptions, Enhancing Opportunities. As a key participant

in this exclusive segment of the 9th ALM Africa Summit, I had the distinct privilege of presenting The Republic of Namibia's finest attributes and investment prospects to an influential global audience. The session on Investment opportunities Showcase facilitated substantive discussions aimed at forging strategic partnerships and coordination mechanisms essential for fostering trade and foreign direct investments across Africa.

133. During the same event I was also awarded a special congressional commendation for efficient, effective, and dedicated service to the Republic of Namibia by Representative Dar'shun Kendrick from the Georgia House of Representatives.

134. In conclusion, Otjozondjupa region remains a region of excellence and choice. A region where partnership in service delivery is the norm as we contribute to the socio-economic development of this beautiful Motherland – Namibia.

Thank you Namibia and thank you for listening.

Thank you Namibia and thank you for listening.