

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS

BY

HON JOHN JULIUS //KHAMUSEB,

GOVERNOR OF OTJOZONDJUPA REGION

**OTJOZONDJUPA REGIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE HALL
OTJIWARONGO**

JULY 18, 2025. 10:00

Director of Ceremonies;
Chairperson of Otjozondjupa Regional Council – Honourable Johannes Hausiku;
All Constituency Councillors and Honorable Members of Parliament;
Acting Chief Regional Officer of Otjozondjupa Region Council – Mr. Shikongo Alweendo;
Your Worships – Mayors of Various Municipalities and Town Councils;
Honourable Local Authority Councillors of different Local Authorities;
Chief Executive Officers from both Public and Private Institutions;
Regional Heads of Government Offices, Ministries and Agencies;
Management Staff and Other High Ranking Officials
Esteemed traditional and religious leaders;
Distinguished Business Personalities;
Fellow Namibians following us live on TV, Radio services and social media platforms;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen;

All Protocol observed and Good Morning to you all.

I am pleased to deliver my first State of the Region Address since my appointment by Her Excellency President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah.

In terms of Article 110 (a) sub article 5 and 6, I am mandated by the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia to give a State of the Region Address at the Council meeting of the Otjozondjupa Regional Council, on developmental achievements and planned activities of the Region. Equally so; to report on the previous year's activities of the Central Government and other developmental partners of the region.

This State of Region Address is aligned to Vision 2030, National Development Plans, 2025-2030 SWAPO Party Manifesto Implementation Plan and the SWAPO Party Manifesto.

With reference to my appointment mandate by Her Excellency President Dr Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah, I must take initiative and implement regional planning and development policies in consultation with the Otjozondjupa Regional Council inter alia to ensure sustainable livelihood for our people through provision of decent shelter and poverty alleviation.

I must oversee the full implementation of developmental programs aimed at acceleration of access to land for residential, commercial, agricultural purposes for overall socio economic development.

To answer to clarion call of our President to do away with import of food I regard Otjozondjupa Region as the bread basket of Namibia.

We are blessed with water and fertile soil in this Region. In Okahandja we have big reservoir dams of Cross Barmen, Swakop poort Dam and Von Bach Dam hence we need to buy all farms around Okahandja town and work Agriculture horticulture projects, Orchard farming and Poultry and eggs production. We must at least cater one hectars of land for individual farmers, same applies to Otavi with Otavi fountain and Kombat where we can extract water from Kombat mine. Grootfontein is surrounded by fertile soil and fountains.

I would like to encourage Horticulture activities in abovementioned towns for food security.

It is my dream to do away with the combined school system where grade 0-11 learners are grouped together, I would like to opt for the subdivision of primary learners from the Secondary learners.

I would like to see sewerage systems in most of the towns be upgraded.

Youth and Women empowerment will be one of my highest priorities of my mandate.

We are blessed with Vocational Training Centres of Rietfontein, Berg Aukas and Okakarara.

NUST wants to leave its footprint by bringing an Agricultural College in our Region.

As far as housing is concern my concept of old rural houses to revisit old Katutura four bedroom houses by expanding them at sides bring in toilets and shower and put them on a reasonable erven for further expansion.

Against this background unemployed youth be trained into bricklaying and plastering at VTC and Cosdec at large scale to ease housing pressure through available funding from G.I.P.F unlisted loans, Development Bank Loan, Youth Credit Scheme and Welwitchia sovereign funds.

Namibia as a major Cooper producing giant with Zambia DRC must set up a Cooper manufacturing plant at Otjiwarongo.

I am calling on Okakarara Vocational Training Centre, in partnership with the Namibian Training Authority to broaden their curriculum and work together with NIMT in Arandis and Tsumeb, they must include mining related training in the field of boiler making, Fitter and turner, diesel and plant Mechanics, Occupational health and safety for mining and mining equipment Maintenance etc. By introducing specialized training in mining related disciplines, our local youth can become technically competent, industry ready and competitive, ensuring that mining benefits Otjozondjupa.

Okakarara VTC can go into partnership with the Otjozondjupa Regional Council, Municipalities and others and render services to the region through job attachments.

On Resettlement

I am going to encouraged group resettlement as the Region is faced with lot of generational workers who has been dumped in corridors, most of the people are using municipal, Towns and villages as the only hope for their animals so people needs land.

I am going to ensure that the road between Grootfontein and Tsumkwe is upgraded to the Bitumen standards.

B2Gold will open its new Antelope underground mine in near future near Kalkfeld a rare earth mineral mine will come on board.

Elephantsberg cooper mine will start near Otavi this need mining related training.

It was at Ohamakari that the real battle of Genocide took place, we need a Museum with skulls of our people in the area and a big lodge with capacity to accommodate 100 tourists per day fully funded through Namibia investment Trust sponsorship for job creation for our Youth and Women.

Otjozondjupa Region spans over 105,000 kilometers with about 220,811 people, reflecting a low population density. It consists of seven constituencies, nine settlements, and five towns, three being Part 2 Municipalities (Otjiwarongo, Okahandja, Grootfontein) and two Town Councils (Okakarara, Otavi). The settlements are poised for elevation to local authority status, and the

towns offer distinct development opportunities that could foster complementary economic growth across the region.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Otjozondjupa Region is committed to strengthening good governance by upholding its core principles, with a strong emphasis on inclusive participation. This approach encourages active involvement from both government and private sectors to deliver services that are timely, effective, meaningful, and sustainable.

Honourable Chairperson, Fellow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the 2024/2025 financial year, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) intensified its fight against corruption in Otjozondjupa through education campaigns, outreach, and investigations. A total of 19 cases were handled, 8 before court, 6 under investigation, and 5 are referred to the Prosecutor General's Office. Cases involved misuse of fuel cards, irregular recruitment, and abuse of office, implicating several institutions. Despite progress, challenges such as limited staff, lack of cooperation, and bureaucratic delays persist. Strengthening ACC with more resources and support is vital for enhancing transparency, accountability, and good governance in the region.

Honourable Chairperson, Esteemed Council Members, and Fellow Citizens,

I now present to you the key achievements, developments, and challenges in maintaining law and order in Otjozondjupa Region.

The political atmosphere in the region remains stable. Security and intelligence operations have been intensified in coordination with special services to safeguard peace and national security. As part of the government's employment creation drive, 117 Cadet Constables were recruited in the 2024/2025 financial year from Otjozondjupa, comprising of 56 females and 61 males. Their nine-month training commenced on 1 August 2024 and concluded on 23 May 2025.

In our effort to maintain public safety, 35 crime prevention operations were conducted, resulting in 359 arrests. Stolen items worth over N\$1.4 million were recovered, and several illegal weapons and substances were confiscated.

The security and safety of our communities remained a top priority. In response to the tragic rape and murder of three young girls in Okahandja, her Excellency President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, created a special team to investigate the crimes. The investigation is still in progress. A reward of N\$120,000 is being offered to anyone who can help police arrest the people responsible. To support the police, a Special Crime Prevention and Combating Operation called “Iron Fist” was launched in Okahandja and is currently underway.

In addition, police officers played a vital role in maintaining law and order during critical national events. This included deployments for the General Voter’s Registration held from June to August 2024, the Presidential and National Assembly Elections in November and December 2024, and the Regional Memorial Service of our Founding President, Dr. Sam Nujoma, held in Grootfontein in February 2025. Otjozondjupa recorded a 2.8% reduction in crime compared to the previous year (2023/2024). However, stock theft, assault, rape, culpable homicide, fraud, and housebreaking remain of concern.

Honourable Members,

During the 2024/2025 period, Otjozondjupa recorded several serious crimes, including a tragic road accident in Otavi that claimed nine lives.

The region also saw 6,770 traffic fines issued, 109 Driving Under the Influence arrests, and 46 accidents. Poaching and stock theft remain major concerns, with 10 rhino cases reported and 228 stock theft cases leading to 117 arrests. Financial constraints delayed key police infrastructure projects. Despite these challenges, the law enforcement remains committed to ensuring safety and justice in the region.

Honourable Members,

The Department of National Civil Registration remains committed to the timely and accurate recording of vital events in the Otjozondjupa Region. These include birth and death registrations, marriages, identity documents, and the issuance of duplicate certificates and ID cards.

The department operates under key legal frameworks, namely the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, the Birth, Marriages and Deaths Registration Act, the Identification Act, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

During the 2024/2025 financial year, the department did not implement any capital projects in the region, but several operational programmes were successfully carried out. A total of 6,524 births were registered, of which 2,973 were timely registrations and 3,551 were late. To enhance service delivery, the e-birth and e-death notification systems were implemented across all state hospitals and selected clinics in the region, facilitating timely transmission of information to the ministry. A total of 927 deaths were registered during the review period.

In terms of identity documentation, the department processed 7,710 ID applications, including 2,940 new and 4,770 duplicate applications. A total of 10,602 ID cards were collected. The department also brought services closer to communities through mass outreach and school mobile programmes. These efforts led to hundreds of new and late birth registrations, duplicate certificates, ID applications, biometric verifications, and identification of undocumented individuals.

However, challenges persist. There remains a large number of uncollected documents, including 4,064 ID cards, 85 confirmation letters, and 14 marriage certificates. Late birth registrations continue to be a concern, as some parents fail to comply with the legal one-month registration window.

Going forward, the department will strengthen advocacy efforts to encourage timely birth registration and ensure that all residents, regardless of their location, have access to national documentation.

AGRICULTURE

Honourable Members,

In terms of agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform supported 824 households with subsidized agricultural inputs under the Dry Land Crop Production Programme (DCPP) and Namibia Agriculture Mechanization and Seed Improvement Project (NAMSIP), distributing 15.5 tonnes of seeds (including pearl millet (mahangu), maize, cowpeas, sorghum, and pasture) to enhance household food security in the region and the country.

Through the Dry Land Crop Production Programme, a combined 432 households benefited from subsidized mechanized tillage, planting and weeding services covering 973 hectares during the last cropping season. This reflects a 226-hectare increase, attributed to improved rainfall and an expansion of Government tractors from 8 to 18 in the region.

Under the Small Stock Distribution and Development in Communal Areas (SSDDCAs), the Ministry of Agriculture distributed 483 goats to 23 vulnerable households in Okakarara, Tsumkwe, and Omatako constituencies. Each household received training, veterinary supplies, and husbandry tools to promote sustainable livestock farming and improve livelihoods.

Furthermore, the Ministry assisted **45** horticultural farmers in Otjozondjupa by subsidizing inputs (i.e., fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, etc.), and irrigation equipment/materials to a total amount of over **N\$800 000** through the Horticulture Value Chain Development Scheme during the period being reviewed.

Under the Poultry Value Chain Development Scheme which is an intervention also being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform, about **N\$500,00.00** was utilized by **48** poultry producers in Otjozondjupa region where they were assisted with subsidized feed, production stock, material for housing and veterinary supplies.

The region is piloting the Dairy Value Chain Development Scheme to boost local milk production and modernize rural dairy farming. During the review period, **over N\$2 million** was used to

support 31 farmers with subsidized dairy livestock, feed, equipment, and training. Additionally, 33 producers and officials received capacity building in dairy production at Cheetah Conservation Fund and UNAM (Neudamm Campus) under this program for the period under review in the Otjozondjupa region.

Lastly, over 2,000 crop and livestock producers received technical support and training on sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices from DAPEES in collaboration with stakeholders through various platforms such as training sessions, farm visits, and demonstration days.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Honourable Chairperson, and fellow citizens,

The Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination is responsible for providing, managing, and maintaining rural water and sanitation services to ensure access to clean and safe water. A total of eleven boreholes were drilled during this period, across constituencies such as Okakarara and Tsumkwe. Of these, eight boreholes were successfully completed, while three attempts yielded no water, reminding us of the region's complex hydrogeological conditions.

Moreover, in a significant push to expand access, seventeen new boreholes were successfully installed across constituencies including Omatoko, Okahandja, Okakarara, Otavi, Tsumkwe, and Otjiwarongo. This marks a critical milestone in ensuring safe and sustainable water supply for our rural settlements. One existing borehole was rehabilitated in Okakarara constituency, reaffirming our capacity to act swiftly in crisis.

The total investment in water infrastructure amounted to **N\$14,3 million** underscoring government's ongoing commitment to improving the lives of residents through reliable water access.

LAND REFORM

Honourable Chairperson, Fellow Citizens of Otjozondjupa, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform as part of its mandate acquired four farms in our region, namely Farm Omkeer No. 204, Portion 2 (Vergenoeg) and the Remaining Extent of Farm Andrada No. 925, as well as Portion 19 of Farm Omuramba No. 341. These were subdivided into five farming units with a combined size of 7,225 hectares. The total investment for these resettlement farms amounted to over N\$18 million.

In response to the increasing demand for land, four of these farms were advertised and successfully allotted to eight landless Namibians. I am pleased to report that two of the beneficiaries are from our region, with the remaining beneficiaries coming from Kunene, Omaheke, Kavango West, Hardap, and Ohangwena Regions. I remain hopeful that future resettlement will prioritize more of our own residents.

The Otjozondjupa Regional Resettlement Committee received 671 applications during the reporting period. Of these, 24 applicants were recommended for approval, and eight were successfully resettled, comprising five men and three women.

I must commend those resettled farmers who honoured their obligations by paying lease fees amounting to over N\$200,000. These funds are critical in supporting the government's resettlement programme and infrastructure development. I encourage all resettlement beneficiaries to remain compliant in paying their lease fees and be productive.

Honourable Members,

Neu Sommerau Resettlement Project near Kombat, the Ministry invested N\$125,000.00 to service farm implements. I am particularly proud to highlight that beneficiaries themselves contributed N\$22,410.00 toward operational costs, demonstrating a growing sense of self-reliance. A total of 63 hectares were ploughed, and 257 grass bales were produced and sold for N\$21,845. However, delays in diesel procurement negatively impacted the project's momentum.

I therefore recommend that project funds be administered by the Otjozondjupa Regional Council to fast-track future procurements.

In the area of communal development, the Ministry, under the Programme for Communal Land Development completed the installation of water infrastructure in Gam Settlement. These are Otjiserandu, Tura, Otjiuamapeta, Okorohe, Ondjombo Yateku, Omangete, Ohaama, and Otjiyere. This infrastructures, valued at N\$23.4 million, will be officially handed over during the 2025/26 financial year.

Furthermore, over 679 communal farmers (92 from Tsumkwe West and 587 from Gam) received vital advisory services on farm management, animal husbandry, and rangeland care, further empowering our communities.

With regard to land rights, the Otjozondjupa Communal Land Board registered 168 customary land rights and two leaseholds in the 2023/24 financial year. This was supported by an allocation of N\$43,980 for mapping and verification. Registered land rights reduce disputes and provide security of tenure and compensation for our people.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the National Youth Service, the region removed 27 illegal fences in Okakarara and Tsumkwe West communal areas. These illegal fences had denied other community members access to commonage areas, contrary to the Communal Land Reform Act. Their removal restores fairness and access for all. Despite these achievements, challenges persist. The demand for farmland continues to outpace supply, creating intense competition for resettlement opportunities. The Ministry has initiated consultations on revised resettlement criteria under the new National Resettlement Policy of 2023. It is my hope that this framework will help improve the efficiency and fairness of land redistribution.

I therefore appeal to the people of Otjozondjupa, and indeed all Namibians, to exercise patience as the government continues to implement the resolutions of the Land Conference and ensure meaningful access to land for all our citizens.

SPORT

Honourable Chairperson, Fellow Citizens, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sport remains a powerful unifier and a vehicle for national pride and social development. As per our mandate to promote and develop sport at all levels, I am proud to report on the strides made in the Otjozondjupa Region in the area of sport.

According to the SWAPO Party manifesto, sport has been designated as the second-highest national priority. In line with this, the government has committed to constructing basic sport infrastructure in all 121 constituencies by the year 2028. I am pleased to inform you that land has already been acquired in Otjiwarongo for the construction of a ministerial sports stadium. Furthermore, there are concrete plans to develop stadiums in other towns across our region.

Otjozondjupa continues to produce highly talented athletes who are making us proud on both national and international stages. Our learners are actively engaged in sporting activities throughout the year, thanks to the efforts of the Namibian Schools Sport Union (NSSU). Various sport federations in the region are hosting competitions aimed at promoting sport and talent development at grassroots level.

The government has also shown continued commitment by funding transportation for major sport competitions and facilitating community mass participation events throughout Otjozondjupa. I am equally proud to highlight that our region boasts two football teams in the Debmarine Namibia Premier League, Mighty Gunners FC and Okahandja United, as well as two netball teams in the Netball Premier League, namely Mighty Gunners Netball Club and Otjozondjupa Nampol Netball Club.

In addition, the shortage of funding to procure sporting equipment for various codes remains a challenge. Without proper tools, our athletes and learners are restricted from unlocking their full potential.

I call on all stakeholders, including the private sector, to partner with government in uplifting sport in Otjozondjupa. Together, we can nurture the champions of tomorrow and build a healthier and united society.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

During the 2024/2025 financial year, the Directorate of Youth Development remained committed to empowering young people across the Otjozondjupa Region through a range of structured initiatives aimed at enhancing health, personal development, and economic participation.

A major focus was the rollout of the Priority Population Standardized HIV/AIDS Prevention Curriculum (PP-PREV), which targeted Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) as well as Adolescent Boys and Young Men (ABYM). The curriculum, implemented in towns such as Otjiwarongo, Otavi, Okakarara, and Okahandja, covered key topics like sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS prevention, gender equality, financial literacy, and leadership development. Through these efforts, young people were equipped with vital life skills to make informed decisions and lead healthier, and more productive lives.

In addition, the Grassroots Skills Training Programme was launched specifically for adolescent boys and young men, with a strong focus on those from underprivileged communities. The training addressed critical social challenges including substance abuse, school dropout, unemployment, and gender-based violence. It also promoted life skills, healthy relationships, and behavior change through interactive learning methods such as sports and peer education. In Grootfontein, 27 boys were trained under this initiative.

On the economic front, the Namibia Youth Credit Scheme (NYCS) played a central role in promoting entrepreneurship among youth. A total of 81 young people were trained in Basic Business Management and Entrepreneurship across the region, and 75 were successfully funded with a combined loan amount of over N\$580,000 to either start or grow their businesses. These businesses included butcheries, salons, poultry farms, welding workshops, mini-markets, charcoal production, and printing services. Two rounds of training and funding disbursements were conducted between August 2024 and early 2025, reaching towns such as Otjiwarongo,

Okahandja, Otavi, Grootfontein, Okakarara, Omatako, and Tsumkwe.

Further economic support was extended through the Youth Enterprise Development Initiative, in collaboration with the Development Bank of Namibia (DBN) (also known as One Hundred and Twenty One Youth Enterprises Initiative). Two youth-led businesses were funded — one in Otavi focusing on event management and another in Tsumkwe running a mini-market to improve access to basic goods. Both enterprises received equipment and technical support, and each is benefitting ten young people in their respective constituencies. In Tsumkwe, a container structure was used to house the mini-market as a cost-effective and sustainable alternative to permanent construction.

To promote agribusiness and food security, a group of ten young people from Grootfontein Constituency underwent specialized training in mushroom cultivation. This included practical skills in production, hygiene maintenance, harvesting, and small-scale business management, which aimed at helping them establish income-generating mushroom enterprises.

The Directorate of Youth Development will continue to make meaningful progress in tackling youth challenges related to health, social issues, and economic empowerment. Programs such as grassroots training, comprehensive sexuality education and Namibia Youth Credit Scheme have contributed to improved knowledge, skill development, and entrepreneurial growth.

Moving forward, the Directorate aims to expand youth access to funding and business support, strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems to measure impact, and deepen partnerships with other stakeholders to scale youth development programs.

The ultimate goal remains to create an enabling environment for Namibian youth to thrive, become self-reliant, and contribute meaningfully to national development.

Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The National Youth Service, through the Rietfontein Training Centre, continues to play a pivotal role in nurturing a skilled and self-reliant youth population through its complex development programmes.

In 2024, NYS offered twelve accredited TVET programmes, aligning with the Namibian Training Authority and the Namibian Qualifications Authority. These programmes equip our young people with practical, industry-relevant skills, bridging the gap between labour market demands and youth competencies. A total of 361 trainees were enrolled, achieving a remarkable completion rate of 94% and a competency rate of 87%. This outcome is a resounding endorsement of the Service's contribution to youth employment and self-employment, in line with the current Administration's Manifesto.

Across its production centers, NYS continues to champion food security through agronomy, horticulture, and livestock farming. Although only 10% of the available 1,000 hectares of arable land are utilized due to water constraints, tangible strides are being made. The Centre has notably expanded its efforts through the procurement of three centre pivots, covering 12 hectares for horticulture and 10 hectares for maize production, marking a bold transition towards irrigated agriculture. This investment is a forward-looking initiative aimed at enhancing productivity and climate resilience.

In partnership with the line Ministry, NYS has launched a self-employment charcoal scheme, training 630 youth in First Aid, biomass harvesting, and charcoal processing. This project not only promotes sustainable resource use but has already yielded 17.8 tonnes of charcoal, demonstrating both economic viability and environmental stewardship.

Together, these initiatives reflect our unwavering commitment to youth development, food security, and inclusive economic growth. We commend the NYS for its service and dedication in realizing the aspirations of our region and our nation.

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Honourable members, Ladies and Gentlemen

In pursuit of economic transformation and industrial growth, the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy remains focused on developing a robust regulatory framework, promoting investment,

and creating a conducive environment for trade and industrialisation in the Otjozondjupa Region. As part of its commitment to economic diversification, the Ministry, through the Otjozondjupa Regional Office, has continued to serve communities and businesses across various economic sectors.

During the year under review, the Ministry made notable progress in supporting local enterprises and driving industrialisation efforts. One key initiative was the Biomass Project in Otjiwarongo, which, once fully operational, will produce animal feed, packaged charcoal, and biocharcoal from invader bush. The project is funded by the Government of the Republic of Namibia, the Finnish Government, and UNIDO, with installation and commissioning expected to be completed within the year.

During the 2024/2025 financial year, the ministry facilitated liquor license renewals across all judiciary offices in the region, except for Okahandja which was handled by Khomas Region. A total of 206 licenses were renewed at Otjiwarongo Magistrate and 80 at Grootfontein Magistrate, covering various license types including shebeen, restaurant, hotel, and special liquor licenses.

Furthermore, the Ministry provided a wide range of business support services including business registration, licensing, SME certification, advisory services, and assistance with import and export applications. Through targeted outreach to all constituencies, over 200 potential entrepreneurs were trained during the financial year 2024/25. In addition, the Ministry facilitated the issuance of liquor licenses across the region, ensuring regulatory compliance and support to the hospitality sector.

The Ministry's Equipment Aid Scheme supported 22 SMEs to boost their operations, while the Industrial Upgrading and Modernisation Programme assisted two businesses, despite budget constraints. In total, 85 applications were received for EAS and 32 for IUMP, with 55 and 7 shortlisted respectively. However, resource limitations continue to hinder the full execution of planned activities.

In conclusion, MIME remains dedicated to fostering sustainable economic development, creating jobs, and empowering MSMEs to transition into larger enterprises. Through strategic implementation and continued engagement with stakeholders, we strive to reduce poverty and close the gap between the privileged and the underserved in our region.

QUALITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Honourable Members, Fellow Citizens,

I now turn to the education sector, a cornerstone of our regional development.

The Directorate of Education, Arts, and Culture has made notable progress during the 2024/2025 financial year. Our region currently accommodates a total of 56,968 learners, comprising 28,083 boys and 28,885 girls, supported by 1,959 dedicated teachers of which 561 males are and 1,398 are females.

One of the key achievements is the establishment of Grootfontein Primary School, which officially opened its doors at the start of the 2025 academic year. In addition, two schools that were previously operating under temporary arrangements in Otjiwarongo namely the Otjiwarongo Project Primary School and the Orwetoveni Project Secondary School have successfully moved into their newly constructed facilities as of 15 July 2024.

On infrastructure development, the Directorate completed the construction of 42 classrooms and one ablution block across several towns in the region, benefitting schools in Grootfontein, Okahandja, and Otjiwarongo. This development came at an investment of N\$22.3 million, which has significantly improved learning conditions in these areas.

To address the widespread shortage of furniture in schools, the Directorate also rolled out a school furniture refurbishment programme. This initiative, in collaboration with key stakeholders such as Khorab Secondary School, Paresis Secondary School, COSDEC-Otjiwarongo,

NamWater HRD Centre, and Namibia Correctional Services. To date around 2,846 desks and 3,325 chairs have been refurbished and distributed to schools, while 1014 Desks and 1312 chairs are still under repair. This project was allocated a total budget of N\$3.4 million with a current expenditure of N\$2.2 million, and continues to make a tangible difference in improving the learning environment across the region.

Furthermore, through a dedicated budget of N\$11.3 million, the Ministry initiated major renovation works at Okakarara Primary, Okahandja Secondary, and Kalfeld Primary Schools, all of which were affected by wind and rain storms. This intervention is crucial in restoring safe and conducive learning conditions for our learners.

Despite commendable progress, the Directorate continues to face challenges such as aging infrastructure, overcrowded classrooms, hostel shortages, and limited funding for development and capital projects. However, the Ministry remains committed to improving access and quality of education through continued investment and innovative solutions. Increased funding is essential to address disparities and ensure safe, conducive learning environments for all learners in the region.

QUALITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Honourable Chairperson, fellow citizens,

During the year under review, we continued to make progress in strengthening access to quality health and social welfare services in Otjozondjupa Region.

Otjiwarongo District Hospital currently has two specialists: An Obstetrician and a Paediatrician. The staffing structure at the hospital has been upgraded to that of a referral hospital, with full implementation planned over the next five years. Medical officers are stationed at Otavi Health Centre, Osire Clinic, and Mangetti Dune Health Centre. Plans are in place to assign a medical officer to Gam Clinic once the necessary infrastructure is in place.

A significant milestone was the near completion of a Dialysis Centre at Otjiwarongo State Hospital, which will reduce the burden of patient referrals to Windhoek. Active community TB case finding was conducted at mining facilities, and facility-based TB screening was done in Otavi. The Ministry of Health and Social Services carried out regional cervical cancer awareness and screening outreach in Otjiwarongo, Grootfontein, Okakarara, and Okahandja districts. A total of 1,170 voluntary medical male circumcisions were conducted, while community HIV screening was done in all districts through the Total Control Epidemic initiative.

During the reporting period from April 2024 to March 2025, significant progress was made in HIV prevention and treatment across the Otjozondjupa Region.

Infrastructure development also remained a key focus. The construction of Ombili Clinic, funded by B2Gold at a cost of N\$6 million, was a major investment. We installed oxygen points in Okahandja and Grootfontein districts at the amount of N\$1.2 million, completed the ICU slab at Otjiwarongo State Hospital at the amount of N\$600,000.00, renovated official accommodation at Okakarara Hospital at the amount of N\$250,000.00, and made good progress on Okondjatu Clinic, which is 85% complete. Additionally, an ART prefabricated facility was built in Grootfontein at the amount of N\$900 000.00.

In terms of malaria control, the region recorded 442 confirmed cases during the 2024/2025 season, with Grootfontein accounting for the highest burden at 272 cases. Unfortunately, one death was recorded in Okakarara. Indoor residual spraying was conducted in Okakarara and Grootfontein districts where vector presence is confirmed. Coverage in Okakarara reached 88%, while Grootfontein achieved 75%. Despite these efforts, the region has not achieved the recommended 85% spray coverage in the past five years due to refusals by community members and locked houses.

The health sector continues to face serious challenges. These include a shortage of functional emergency vehicles, limited transport for outreach and essential services, and a cumbersome procurement process that slows down critical service delivery.

Despite these constraints, the region remains committed to strengthening healthcare access and delivery for all residents of Otjozondjupa.

Honourable Chairperson,

The Office of the President, through the Division of Marginalized Communities, continues to champion inclusive development for the San, Ovaherero, and Ovatjimba communities in Otjozondjupa Region. Guided by four strategic pillars—advocacy, education support, livelihood enhancement, and land redistribution—the division remains committed to integrating these communities into the mainstream economy.

Through the Education Support Programme, 1,423 learners were transported across the region during school holidays, opening, closing and home weekends while 60 students are being supported in tertiary institutions. In August 2024, a new Early Childhood Development Centre was completed in Tsumkwe through Palms for Life as a donation.

Under the Livelihood Programme, 75 dignified burials were conducted at a cost of N\$400,000.00 and food was distributed quarterly to 5,758 registered households under the San Feeding Programme, despite high demand and logistical constraints.

Challenges persist, including illegal adoption of San children, lack of national documents, over-reliance on the feeding programme, and poor access to clean water in some settlements. Learner dropouts due to poverty-related hardships, landlessness, and limited transport remain serious concerns.

We therefore recommend a re-registration and verification of beneficiaries, with active involvement from traditional authorities and constituency offices. Stronger inter-ministerial coordination is also needed to extend services such as housing, social grants, and documentation to these communities.

Government remains resolute in uplifting the most vulnerable and building a Namibia where no one feels left out.

LAND HOUSING AND SANITATION

OKAHANDJA MUNICIPALITY

Honourable Chairperson, the population of Okahandja has grown significantly from 25,000 to 46,000 residents, driven by a rapid influx of people seeking economic opportunities. This population surge has led to an increased demand for housing and serviced land. Unfortunately, the shortage of adequate housing has resulted in incidents of illegal land occupation. In response, the Council has taken decisive steps by proclaiming new land and establishing serviced townships such as Ekunde Extensions 1 through 5 and Extension 10 to address the housing backlog.

However, the town continues to face serious infrastructure challenges due to aging services, with frequent water pipe bursts and sewer blockages caused by deteriorating asbestos pipelines. These issues underscore the urgent need for funding to upgrade our basic infrastructure and to provide decent, serviced housing for the growing population of Okahandja.

During the 2024/2025 financial year, the Municipality of Okahandja undertook a number of key capital development projects aimed at improving infrastructure and service delivery. Among the largest of these is the construction of water and sewer services in Okahandja Ekunde Extensions 4 and 5, with a total project budget of N\$32 million. To date, phases 1 and 2 have been completed with an expenditure of N\$11.2 million, while an outstanding N\$21 million is still required to complete phases 3, 4, and 5. Similarly, in Extension 10, although design, costing, and documentation have been completed, only N\$455,000.00 has been spent, and over N\$37.5 million is still needed to begin the actual construction work due to a lack of allocated funding.

The decommissioning of the old dumpsite and construction of a new one remains a critical project due to its proximity to Ekunde 4 and 5. This project has a budget of N\$25 million, but no

funds was available to for spending. Additionally, maintenance and repair work on oxidation ponds and the sewer mainline from Oshetu to the oxidation ponds commenced with contractor appointments, and N\$455,000.00 has been spent thus far. However, a further N\$5.3 million is required to complete the work. A parallel project, which involves the construction of a 675 mm diameter sewer pipeline to replace the existing mainline, has similarly progressed only through design and documentation, with over N\$28 million still needed for implementation.

At the Nau-Aib Office of the Municipality, the construction of a new boundary wall and office renovation is completed successfully to the amount of N\$1.89 million.

For cadastral surveys covering various extensions in Okahandja, only N\$100,000 has been spent from a N\$2 million budget, leaving a shortfall of N\$1.9 million. The construction of a new fire station is also underway, with over N\$3.4 million spent from a total budget of N\$6.3 million, and construction is in progress following the appointment of consultants.

In efforts to improve recreational spaces, the municipality is constructing a children's playground, with works currently underway following contractor appointment. Over N\$347,000 has been spent, and the project requires a balance of N\$581,000 to reach completion. The upgrade, replacement, and maintenance of water and sewer lines is another vital project, where N\$360,000 has been utilized so far for the purchase of concrete sewer pipes, while a further N\$2.74 million is still needed.

A new cemetery has also been identified, and the procurement of a consultant has been finalized, although the N\$1 million allocated for site layout and environmental impact assessment remains unspent. Road development and maintenance are ongoing, with the upgrading of gravel roads to bitumen currently under construction. From the total budget of N\$12.5 million, close to N\$4 million has already been used, with a shortfall of N\$8.5 million. Lastly, in waste management, 1,000 refuse wheelie bins have been successfully procured with N\$804,000 from a N\$1 million budget.

While notable achievements have been made, the municipality continues to face challenges due to funding gaps, especially in large-scale infrastructure projects. Additional financial support remains critical to ensure the timely and effective delivery of essential services to the residents of Okahandja.

OKAKARARA TOWN COUNCIL

Honourable Chairperson, fellow residents,

Okakarara Town Council remains committed to driving effective governance and inclusive development. During the reporting period, Council initiated the formulation of key policies, including a land policy to curb illegal land grabbing, a credit policy to enhance revenue collection, and a waste management policy to improve service delivery. The Council is also implementing a Five-Year Strategic Plan to guide the town's development agenda.

In addressing housing and land delivery, Council entered into a Public-Private Partnership with the Namibia Development Workshop to establish two new extensions, delivering a total of 739 plots. The Hamakari project has made provision of 465 semi-serviced plots, already with 289 registered clients and water reticulation and road services has been completed. A further 300 erven have been allocated for formalizing existing informal settlements, while Extension 7, which targets middle-income earners, is progressing well with 171 registered clients. Additionally, 92 houses were constructed under the National Housing Enterprise, and 8 by private owners. Notably, the first-ever private school in the town is now operational and undergoing further expansion. Council also completed the servicing of land for a Central Business District (CBD) and light industrial park, unlocking over 200 erven for future investment.

The town received ministerial approval to implement the Flexible Land Tenure Scheme. The feasibility study, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and Clearance Certificate are in place, and the planning process is now underway with a planning company soon to be appointed. This initiative aims to support the realignment and formalization of informal settlements, particularly in Okakango.

In a bold move, Council resolved to sacrifice local authority surcharges and dividends in order to continue electrification efforts. This includes the formalized informal settlements and forty (40) privately sold erven still to be electrified. The town is also awaiting final electrification works from CENORED for the newly completed Build It outlet. Shoprite's new state-of-the-art development is also advancing following treasury approval. Furthermore, a privately constructed hospital will soon begin operations, adding a healthcare facility for the residents.

In terms of road infrastructure, Council received funding from the Road Fund Administration for road maintenance to upgrade storm-damaged roads. These upgrades were completed by March 2025. Grading of additional roads in Pamue and newly developed extensions of Hamakari and Matutura has also taken place.

The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development allocated N\$2 million during the 2022/2023 financial year for capital development and the fund is used to complete electrical infrastructure in Extension 6, our designated Central Business District (CBD) area.

Human capital development remains a priority. Council continues to provide internship opportunities to students from local vocational training centres and creates temporary employment for residents where possible.

In infrastructure development, Council has rolled out a prepaid water metering system to tackle accumulated debt and improve revenue collection. Today, nearly 90% of the town is on prepaid meters, a major milestone in fiscal management.

Despite these achievements, the Town Council continue to face a range of challenges. These include underfunding from central government for land planning and servicing, an increase in the number of undocumented migrants, poor revenue collection due to high unemployment, and aging water infrastructure leading to significant water losses. The town also lacks funding for the rehabilitation of the abattoir, the construction of a proper open market, and the development of a stormwater drainage system. The Build Together Program has also stalled due to a lack of

funding, while repayment of existing loans remains poor. Illegal land grabbing has intensified, with up to 10% of land now occupied unlawfully.

To address the persistent housing and land issues, Council believes the best path forward is to attract investors to establish industries in Okakarara. This will create employment, boost household incomes, and enable our residents to afford and invest in housing—laying the foundation for a stronger, more inclusive economy built through industrialization.

OTJIWARONGO MUNICIPALITY

Honourable Chairperson, fellow residents,

The Municipality of Otjiwarongo continues to make notable strides in addressing the pressing issues of housing, infrastructure, and community development. According to the 2018 IPPR Report, housing in Namibia remains a complex and highly contested issue. Urban areas are under immense pressure due to rapid urbanization, and the formal housing market continues to fail the majority of Namibians, particularly the low-income earners. Otjiwarongo, being the Regional Capital, has been growing at a rate of 1,200 residents per year for the last decade. A 2021 socio-economic study found that over 60% of our residents live in informal settlements, making our town the most densely populated in the region.

To mitigate this, the Municipality has embarked on multiple land and housing projects aimed at different income groups.

Under social housing, the informal settlement upgrading and formalization process is ongoing, and Council has introduced the Flexible Land Tenure System in partnership with the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia and the Namibia Housing Action Group. Through this initiative, five extensions of planned land are being allocated to existing informal dwellers, and over N\$4 million has been secured for self-servicing. A Reception Area is also underway to accommodate around 5,000 residents awaiting formal plots.

Council has approved the alienation of 104 plots to the Shack Dwellers Federation and Namibia Housing Action Group, with land servicing already underway. Furthermore, in an effort to promote food security and economic independence, Council is converting Camp 3 into a small-scale agricultural scheme with assistance from NamWater, which drilled a borehole for farmers.

Under the Decentralized Build Together Programme (DBTP), 25 out of 41 planned houses under Phase 12 have been completed. The installation of sewer systems for nine (9) erven has also been finalized. Although challenges remain, such as unoccupied completed houses and the need for training DBTP Committee members, progress continues.

The Municipality also signed a partnership agreement with the Namibia Housing Enterprise aimed at constructing affordable houses in Orwetoveni Extension 8 and the planned Heroes Park Extensions. However, the lack of funds to fully service existing areas like Ombili remains a challenge.

The Council has also allocated an additional 100 erven to Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia in Orwetoveni Extension 15, with a long-term repayment plan, but again faces the challenge of limited serviced land.

On formal housing, significant achievements have been made through projects like the Freedom and Heroes Park, where 340 houses have been completed out of a targeted 373. Other PPPs with developers such as UNISTRAT and UUM Investments cc have successfully serviced and sold residential erven, though uptake remains slow due to economic challenges and bureaucratic delays.

Council is also partnering with Development Workshop Namibia to service land in Extensions 24 and 25. These areas, once developed, will help decongest informal settlements and provide housing to more residents. Council has secured N\$14 million from MURD for bulk water services to support these developments. The first phase of construction is set to begin by June 2025 and includes servicing the planned Reception Area for relocated residents.

In a bold move towards sustainability, the Council is spearheading a Wastewater Treatment and Waste-to-Energy Plant Project, with financial support from the African Development Bank. This project, currently in its preparation phase, is expected to yield a feasibility report by the end of the financial year and attract international and local developers for implementation.

Infrastructure remains a key focus area. Phase II of the upgrading of Henk Willems Street and Rikumbi Kandanga Road is underway, co-funded by the Roads Fund Administration. The N\$6,2 million investment includes interlock paving and stormwater management to relieve traffic pressure and to prevent future damage. Furthermore, a N\$71 million Tripartite Agreement between RFA, Roads Authority, and the Municipality is supporting comprehensive road maintenance over a three-year period. Road infrastructure remains a cornerstone of economic development and service delivery in our region. In Otjiwarongo, Council has made significant progress in upgrading and maintaining critical roads under a multi-phase project funded in collaboration with the Roads Fund Administration. Lot 1 and Lot 2 contracts have already been awarded and are progressing well, while Lot 3 is still under bid.

Completion of this second phase is anticipated by the end of November 2025. These ongoing road infrastructure improvements are vital not only for improved mobility and safety but also for enhancing economic activity and the overall beautiful and functionality of our town. The regional leadership remains fully committed to ensuring quality infrastructure that meets the needs of our growing population and supports long-term development.

To address water supply issues, the Council has replaced the Karundu Water Tower at N\$1.5 million and plans to replace the Blink Water Tower at N\$1.7 million. Council has also allocated budget for upgrading aging water and sewer systems to address monthly water losses estimated at N\$1 million. NamWater has been engaged, and a contractor has been appointed to enhance the efficiency of the water meter systems.

On the social front, the Council continues its Corporate Social Responsibility with targeted programs. Pensioners and indigent households receive monthly rebates and 3,000 litres of free

water to ease their financial burden. The Multi-Purpose Centre supports Orphans and Vulnerable Children through feeding schemes and school-related assistance, while the Home-Based Care Program offers vital medical and emotional support to patients with cancer, TB, and HIV/AIDS.

These developments highlight the Municipality's commitment to sustainable growth, inclusive service delivery, and improving the quality of life for all residents. As we move forward, the challenges remain significant—but so is our resolve to build a better, more resilient Otjiwarongo for the benefit of all.

OTAVI TOWN COUNCIL

Honourable Chairperson, esteemed Honourable Councillors, and residents of Otjozondjupa Region,

I now present to you the developmental progress and ongoing efforts of the Otavi Town Council for the Financial Year 2024/2025. The council has undertaken several impactful infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing service delivery and improving the living conditions of our residents.

Firstly, the council successfully completed Phase 1 of the Bulk Water Infrastructure Project at a cost of N\$5,5 million. This phase included the construction of an elevated water tank and the connection of existing boreholes to the town's bulk water system. Official handed over was on 30 April 2025 by the Honourable Minister of Urban and Rural Development, this project aims to ensure that Otavi can supply at least 60% of its own water, reducing both dependency on Namwater and the town's water debt. Phase 2 of this project, estimated at N\$9.8 million, and is set to begin in the 2025/2026 financial year with support from B2Gold Namibia and the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development.

The council also embarked on the household sewer connection project, allocating N\$250,000 to eliminate the septic tank system in town. So far, 79 houses have been connected, with the remaining connections planned for the next financial year.

Through Road Fund Administration funding, the council implemented its annual road maintenance programme, which included pothole repairs in the Central Business District (CBD), KHOAEB Township, and Otavi Extension 4. It also covered speed hump construction and traffic sign procurement. While the budget was N\$1.09 million, works to the value of N\$1.49 million were executed. In the upcoming year, the re-gravelling of major gravel roads will begin, carried out by our in-house team.

To comply with the Local Authorities Act, council contracted SEEDS Property Solutions to provide valuation roll services for the 2024–2028 period, at a cost of N\$348,000.

One of the key projects this year is the servicing of the New Cairo Settlement, with N\$12 million contract awarded to Mawila Technical Services for the provision of water and sewer services. Completion is expected in October 2025.

Responding to the rapid population growth, which has seen Otavi expand from 6,000 to over 10,700 residents, 60% of whom live in informal settlements, the council has budgeted N\$1 million to formalize Harambee and Naruseb settlements. Enumeration is complete, and digitized planning is underway. Residents will be relocated to Kap n Bou and the New Reception Area, where bulk water service construction has already commenced.

The Decentralized Build Together Programme has also been revived, and the council is currently constructing 30 houses at a cost of N\$2.4 million.

Furthermore, the council is set to begin additional projects before the close of the financial year, including cemetery fencing (N\$50,000), park and playground development (N\$200,000), construction of refuse bunkers (N\$100,000), pump station automation (N\$400,000), and town planning and surveying services valued at N\$2 million.

In total, the capital budget for the 2024/2025 financial year stands at N\$21.4 million.

Despite this progress, Otavi Town Council continues to face significant challenges. The town grapples with three informal settlements, namely, Harambee, Kap n Bou, and Naruseb, which are not fully serviced due to budget constraints. The council also carries a water debt of N\$71 million to Namwater, compounded by water losses of approximately 62%.

The town's oxidation ponds, originally designed for fewer than 2,500 people, are now severely overwhelmed. Effluent overflow poses a serious health risk to both residents and the environment. While a wastewater treatment plant has been designed and is estimated to cost up to N\$29 million, the council lacks the funding to implement this urgent project.

Lastly, I call on the residents of Otavi to continue honouring their municipal obligations. The council is currently owed N\$74 million in unpaid rates and service charges, and these funds are critical for sustaining and improving service delivery.

GROOTFONTEIN MUNICIPALITY

Honourable Chairperson, fellow Honourable Councillors, and residents,

It is my honour to report on the progress, achievements, and challenges faced by the Grootfontein Municipality during the 2024/2025 financial year. This year, the council received a total budgetary allocation of N\$23.5 million, courtesy of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development and the Road Fund Administration. These funds have been vital in advancing critical infrastructure development and service delivery projects within the town.

Among the key projects, council has made commendable progress with the Construction of Social Housing for the Single Quarter Inhabitants, a project aimed at relocating residents currently living in dilapidated single quarters. Out of 100 planned low-cost housing units, 65 houses have already been constructed, and the external works including sewer and water connections have been completed. This initiative has been made possible through a budget of N\$8 million, reduced from the initial N\$11 million.

The Upgrading of Informal Settlements, particularly the design and technical documentation of Portions 81, 82, and 83 for the reception area, is now 67% complete, with designs and tender documentation finalized. N\$5.7 million has been spent so far, and further invoices are under review for payment consideration.

In Woodland Proper, work is underway to provide water and sewer reticulation. The project, valued at N\$8.5 million, is 20% complete, with external works for the 65 houses already under development. This project was implemented in-house in collaboration with local SMEs. The project commenced in February 2025 and is expected to be completed in June 2025.

The resealing and maintenance of selected roads in Grootfontein has been fully completed. This road maintenance project covered approximately 6 kilometers of bitumen roads, at a total cost of N\$3.4 million, funded by the Road Fund Administration.

The council is also constructing a Fire Station, which commenced on 10 March 2025 and is scheduled for completion by 10 December 2025. This critical emergency service infrastructure is funded to the tune of N\$5.4 million.

Unfortunately, the provision of electrical reticulation for Omulunga Extension 7, aimed at connecting 315 erven, is yet to commence. Although N\$791,000 has been paid for design work, the actual construction has been delayed due to procurement approval setbacks, which moved from February to October.

Despite notable progress, Grootfontein continues to face challenges, including outdated electrical systems at pump stations, theft of manhole covers, and insufficient funding for a compliant landfill site. The lack of a designated open market has led to congestion in the CBD, while vandalism and flood-damaged roads strain service delivery. Additionally, the social housing units constructed remain inadequate to fully accommodate those awaiting relocation from the single quarters.

In light of these challenges, I call upon central government, development partners, and residents alike to support the efforts of the Grootfontein Municipality. Continued collaboration is essential if we are to realize our shared vision of a well-served, economically inclusive, and resilient Grootfontein.

Honourable Members,

During the 2024/2025 financial year, the Otjozondjupa Regional Council continued its mandate to plan, coordinate, and implement developmental projects across the region in line with the final phase of the Strategic Plan, stemming from 2017/2018 all the way extended to 2024/2025. Otjozondjupa Regional Council received a total development budget allocation of N\$6 million. These funds were distributed among four settlements to address critical service infrastructure needs.

In Kalkfeld Settlement, an amount of N\$1.5 million was allocated for water reticulation in Dinotsdal and Extension 1, with actual expenditure exceeding the allocation of over N\$2 million due to additional requirements. Okondjatu Settlement received N\$1.5 million for water reticulation and spent over N\$1,1 million. Okandjira Settlement was allocated N\$1 million for the first phase of landfill construction, with an actual expenditure of over N\$750, 000 In Okamatapati, N\$1 million was allocated for sewer rehabilitation; however, only N\$130,580.00 was spent as consultants were still in the initial stages.

In addition to the development budget, the Roads Fund Administration allocated over N\$1,2 million for the upgrading of roads and streets in settlement areas. Tsumkwe Settlement was selected for this intervention; however, the appointed contractor faced difficulties and could not complete the work.

Despite these efforts, the Council faced several challenges. The allocated funds remain insufficient to meet the growing service delivery needs of the region. A shortage of technical personnel has forced reliance on consultants, which in turn reduces the budgeted funds for projects. There is also a noted lack of community participation and ownership in development

projects, and incidents of infrastructure vandalism continue to undermine progress. Lastly, the vast geographical nature of the region, particularly in remote areas such as Gam and Tsumkwe, presents logistical difficulties in delivering timely services.

These challenges highlight the need for increased funding, stronger community engagement, and enhanced capacity building to ensure that every resident of Otjozondjupa receives the basic services they deserve.

Honourable Members,

During the year under review, the Regional Council continued to implement rural development initiatives aimed at improving the livelihoods of our communities. Under various support programmes, several projects were successfully funded and implemented across the region's constituencies.

In Tsumkwe Constituency, over N\$3 million was invested in community-based projects, including the renovation of the Tsumkwe Community Hall, de-bushing of the Gam Sports Field, road clearing in Kukurushe, support to Gam Kindergarten, and the establishment of a leather warehouse through the One Region One Initiative in Gam. Tsumkwe also benefited from the construction of rural sanitation facilities.

Grootfontein Constituency received about N\$41,000.00 for Mehupu Mekerandje a local entrepreneur under the Micro Finance Scheme

Otjiwarongo Constituency received over N\$342,000.00, which was used for projects such as fencing the Kalkfeld Sports Field, supporting the Kalkfeld Bakery through the Rural Employment Scheme, and funding small-scale enterprises under the Micro Finance Scheme.

Otavi Constituency was allocated about N\$80,000.00 for supporting local entrepreneurs, including F.O Hand Craft, Me Esther's Corner, and Khaibasen Photo Studio, under the Micro Finance Scheme.

Okakarara Constituency received over N\$2.6 million, primarily directed toward the construction of toilets under the Rural Sanitation Programme and supporting the Okeserahi Garden initiative through Micro Finance.

Okahandja Constituency was supported with N\$65,000 for the Sida Dia Meat project under the Micro Finance Scheme, while Omatako Constituency received over N\$42,000 used to support Mateve Carwash and the Kambekura Farmers Association.

These rural development efforts reflect the Council's continued commitment to improving living conditions, creating employment, and empowering local communities across Otjozondjupa Region.

ENERGY

During the 2024/2025 financial year, significant progress was made in expanding and upgrading electricity infrastructure across the Otjozondjupa Region. In partnership with the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy and with its own funding, CENORED invested over N\$9 million to electrify seven localities, benefiting communities in Otjiwarongo, Kalkfeld, Grootfontein, Okakarara, Okondjatu, and Okahandja. These electrification projects successfully connected 375 households and created 123 job opportunities during construction.

In addition, a total of N\$25.15 million was committed to capital projects aimed at improving the reliability, safety, and capacity of the electricity supply network. This include the ongoing upgrade of the Otjiwarongo Incomer Station and the completed establishment of a dedicated Load center at the Otjiwarongo State Hospital meant to improve the reliability of the supply in the town. In Otavi, traffic and street lighting infrastructure were improved, while Okakarara benefited from upgraded streetlights and solar lighting along the main route. The OOP Substation in Okahandja is being upgraded to improve network capacity to transfer to industrial areas. Furthermore, in Gam, the Mkhata Solar PV system was successfully relocated to the Otjiserandu Clinic to boost healthcare services. These initiatives created 67 additional employment opportunities and reflect continued investment in sustainable energy solutions for the region.

ROADS

Honourable Chairperson, esteemed Honourable Councillors and fellow citizens,

Within the Otjozondjupa Region, our road network totals about 7,571 kilometers. This includes 1,253 kilometers of bitumen roads, 4,431 kilometers of gravel roads, 1,725 kilometers of earth tracks, and 161.8 kilometers of proclaimed roads. The road infrastructure plays a critical role in linking communities, facilitating trade, and driving socio-economic growth.

For the 2025/2026 financial year, the Ministry of Works and Transport is set to implement a major road construction project which is upgrading of the Okahandja–Hochfeld–Otjozondju–Okondjatu road, spanning 196 kilometers. Procurement for the detailed design is currently underway, and the project will be funded by the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

During the past two financial years (2023/23 – 2024/25), we successfully completed the regravelling of roads from Okakarara to Okangoho and Okakarara to Okahitwa. In 2024/2025 alone, 20 kilometers and 16.7 kilometers were completed respectively under the Road Fund Administration.

Despite these achievements, several important capital projects planned under the 2022/23–2026/27 Strategic Plan have been put on hold due to budgetary constraints. These include the preservation and rehabilitation and roads safety improvement of the Otavi–Tsumeb and Okahandja–Otjiwarongo roads, the Grootfontein–Rooidag Gate low-volume seal upgrade, and the construction of the Otjiwarongo weighbridge. Although feasibility studies and designs have been completed, implementation will only proceed once adequate funding becomes available.

In terms of ongoing maintenance, work continues on the regravelling of the road from Okakarara to Okahitwa. The contractor is already on site and will proceed to additional roads, including the junction road from M0101 to Osire and the D3022 around Farm Gaub. Road marking projects are also underway between Otjiwarongo and Otavi, and from Okondjatu to Grootfontein, including the road to Okakarara. Furthermore, bidding documentation for upgrading the

Okamatapati branch lines has been completed, though funding is still pending for the 2025/2026 fiscal year.

Funding shortfalls continue to hinder the implementation of critical road development projects. In addition, heavy rainfall has severely affected sections of our road infrastructure, creating a further need for urgent rehabilitation efforts.

Despite these obstacles, we remain committed to improving road connectivity and safety for all residents of Otjozondjupa, as we strive to build a region that is accessible, mobile, and economically competitive.

In conclusion, the region continues to stand out as a region of excellence and opportunities, a place where collaborative service delivery is a standard practice, all in support of the socio-economic progress of our beloved nation. Thank you.