



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

OSHIKOTO REGION

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNOR

**STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS BY
HON. PENDA YA NKAOLO, REGIONAL
GOVERNOR**

OF OSHIKOTO REGION

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 23 JUNE 2021

TIME: 10H00

**VENUE: OSHIKOTO REGIONAL COUNCIL
CHAMBER**

OSHIKOTO REGION

Honourable Samuel Shivute, Chairperson of the Oshikoto Regional Council
Your Worship Councillor Johannes Ndeutepo, Mayor of Omuthiya Town Council
Esteemed Honourable Regional Councillors Present
Mrs. Christella Mwenyo, Chief Regional Officer of the Oshikoto Regional Council
Management Cadres of the Oshikoto Regional Council
Members of the Media
Fellow Namibians

Good morning, mwalalapo, goeiemore,!gai//goas, morekeni, mua uhara

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable members, allow me to thank the Oshikoto Regional Council for calling this extraordinary council meeting and for giving me the opportunity to address the residents of the Region.

I am honoured to be in front you today, to deliver the State of the Region Address to take stock of what has been executed in the past financial year 2020/2021 and report back to the public.

Honourable Chairperson

The year 2021 marks 31 years of our country's freedom, the historic moment in our history.

For the past 31 years, we continue our onward march to improve the lives of our people, we confront great challenges, there are times when we have fallen short, there are times when we have made mistakes, we endured troubled times, but we remain unwavering in our determination to build a society that is free and equal and at peace, we as a Region cannot allow fear to stand in our way.

It is in this regard that we have gathered here today to reflect on the Region's developmental activities for the financial year 2020/2021.

This address will account on the implementation status of the Regional developmental programmes against the five thematic pillars which are **Economic Advancement, Infrastructural Development, Human Capital Development, Social Progression, highlighting the main challenges confronting the Region and propose the way forward.**

Economic Advancement: The Region continuously promote investment through development and implementation of strategic plans, drafting marketing publications, participation at expositions, website development for information dissemination and venturing in bilateral agreements for the economic well-being and quality of life for the community of Oshikoto according to the targeted Regional goals and objectives. The following activities were carried out by the Region during the year under review with the aim to improve the standard of our people.

In terms of assisting Small and Medium Enterprises, the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development availed Four Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand Seventy-Six Namibian Dollars and Ninety-Eight Cents (N\$423,076.98) to the Oshikoto Regional Council for Micro Finance Programme. Six projects benefited from this funding.

Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Services, Directorate of Youth Development established 11 Constituency Youth Enterprises registered with Business and Intellectual Property Authority, Business Plans were developed and are at an advanced stage with Development Bank of Namibia and AgriBank for loan consideration. A Horticulture Youth Enterprise in Omuthiya Constituency employing eight (8) local youth and a mushroom production at Onankali Community Trust in Onyaanya Constituency employing 10 local youth were also established.

Ministry of Industrialisation, Trade and SME Development registered a total of 78 close corporations, 42 sole traders, 21 companies were amended and 120 names were reserved.

Through the directorate, Namibian Industrial Upgrading and Modernization Programme (IUMP) have funded 3 applications in the Region to boost their businesses.

Jewellery and Gemstone is one of the key sector identified as priority sector in the growth at home strategy: three applicants from Oshikoto Region attended training in Gemstone cutting and polishing in Karibib.

Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb invested over Two Hundred and Eighty Five Thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$285,000.00) through the Community Trust, to mitigate high unemployment and extreme poverty, to vulnerable community members.

The company also upgraded Nomtsoub Old Age Home and supported the Hope Home Based Health Care Organization which assists ill, disabled and elderly community members who are unable to care for themselves.

Okashana Rural Development Centre manufactured 255 appropriate technology and agro processing products of which 189 were purchased. This includes millet threshers, HP hammer mills and diesel hammer mills to mention a few.

A total of 18 community members benefitted from the chick revolving program and 10 community members benefitted from chicken eggs program whereas 13 benefitted from the piglet revolving program. Okashana Rural Development Centre also implemented chicken, poultry, gardening projects at the cost of Three hundred and five thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$ 305 000.00)

Honourable Chairperson

Infrastructure Development is the construction of basic foundation services in order to stimulate economic growth and improvement of the quality of life of the people in our Region. Infrastructure Development is indeed a catalyst for economic growth and social progression, contributing to employment creation, investment attraction, facilitating and global

competitiveness, as a Region we are mandated to prioritize the delivery of serviced urban land, roads, housing and sanitation.

Hence, we are working tirelessly to ensure all inhabitants of the Region have access to decent and affordable shelter; proper road network and sanitation.

Oshikoto Regional Council implemented the following capital projects:

- Construction of water and sewer reticulation network for 50 plots at Oshivelo Settlement Extension 1 and for 30 plots at Onayena Settlement Extension 1.
- Construction of Electrical Services at Oshivelo Settlement Extension 1, for approximately 41 plots.
- Construction of New Guinas Constituency Office (phase 1) in Tsintsabis.
- A total of seven houses have been constructed under the Build Together programme.
- A total of Five Hundred and Eighty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Five Namibian Dollars (**N\$586,235.00**) was used for road maintenance at Onayena Settlement.

Omuthiya Town Council carried out the following projects:

- Construction of Open Market Phase 1
- Upgrading of the gravel road (**600M**) to bitumen standard between extension 1 and extension 3 at the amount of N\$ 3.6 million.
- Construction of one Kilometre gravel road at Shack-dweller Federation area at an amount of Eight Hundred and Seventy Two Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Namibian Dollars (N\$ 872 620.00).

Construction of Okaale Lifestyle Centre (mixed – use Commercial (Shops, offices and SME stalls) by a private developer at the total cost of **N\$ 64 million**.

Oniipa Town Council implemented projects as follows:

- Establishment of 6 townships at Onethindi Extension 2 to 7 with 1155 plots at an amount of One Million Four Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty-Two Namibian Dollars, Thirty Cents **(N\$ 1, 433, 742.30)**
- Provision of electrical services at Onethindi Proper Phase 3 at an amount of Three Million Three Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Two Namibian Dollars Ninety Four cents only **(N\$ 3, 328, 282.94)**, 80 households benefited from this project.
- Provision of street lighting along MR121 at an amount of Three Hundred and Sixty Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Sixteen Namibian Dollars, Twenty Four Cents **(N\$ 369, 816.24)**.
- 2 kilometre gravel road maintenance at a cost of Nine Hundred and Seventeen Thousand, One Hundred Namibian Dollars **(N\$ 917,100.00)**.
- Two kilometre road established and gravelled in informal settlements at an amount of Two Hundred and Two Thousand and Fourteen Namibian Dollars, Twenty Five Cents **(N\$ 202 014.25)**.
- Three houses compensated at a total cost of Four Hundred and Forty-Nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty Namibian Dollars Thirty Seven cents **(N\$ 449, 250.37)**.

Tsumeb Municipality executed the following projects:

- Upgrade of Tsumeb Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 2 at a total cost of Two Million Three Hundred and Forty-Three Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty-One Namibian Dollars, Four Cents **(N\$ 2, 343,361. 04)**.
- Construction of Fruit, SME and Vegetable Hub Phase 1, a joint project between the Tsumeb Municipality and Dundee Precious Metal at the cost of N\$ 1,1 million **(N\$ 1, 100,000.00)**.

Ministry of Health and Social Services, implemented the following minor and capital projects during the period under review:

- Construction of a 90-bed capacity Maternity ward at Onandjokwe Intermediate Hospital at a cost of Fifty Nine Million and Eighty Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty-Seven Namibian Dollars, Sixty Cents **(N\$59 080 587.60)**.
- Construction of Ndamono Clinic at an amount of Nineteen Million Nine Hundred and One Thousand, One Hundred and Eighty Namibian Dollars Ten Cents **(N\$19 901 180.10)**.
- Conversion and upgrading of ward 7 into COVID-19 isolation facility at Onandjokwe Intermediate Hospital at a cost of One Million Two Hundred Thousand Namibian Dollars **(N\$ 1 200 000.00)**.
- Construction of the ablution facilities at Amilema Clinic at the cost of Three Hundred and Nineteen Thousand Eighteen Namibian Dollars, Forty Nine Cents **(N\$ 319 018.49)**.
- Minor repairs & renovations at Tsumeb Hospital and town clinic, Lombard, Tsintsabis and Elavi clinics totalling Nine Hundred and Forty Thousand, Four Hundred and Forty-Nine Namibian Dollars Thirty Five Cents **(N\$940 449.35)**.
- Renovation of the maternity ward at Onandjokwe Intermediate Hospital at a cost of One Million Two Hundred Thousand Namibian Dollars **(N\$1 200 000.00)**.
- Renovation and upgrading of Nedbank ward at Onandjokwe Intermediate Hospital at the cost of Nine Hundred Thousand **(N\$900 000.00)** and Covid-19 ward at Two Hundred and Forty Thousand Namibian Dollars **(N\$240 000.00)**.
- Construction of the prefabricated maternity lodgers, shelter at Onandjokwe Intermediate Hospital at the cost of N\$ 4 Million **(N\$ 4 000 000.00)**.
- Renovation of the Nursing college dining hall at Onandjokwe Intermediate Hospital at the cost of Two Hundred And Forty Thousand **(N\$240 000.00)**

- Replacement of the incinerator at Tsumeb hospital at the cost of Seven Hundred and Eighty-Five Thousand One Hundred Namibian Dollars Eighty Five Cents **(N\$785 100.85)**

Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb invested approximately N\$ 5 million in upgrading infrastructure in response to COVID-19, including construction of isolation rooms, purchase of Protective Equipment's, construction of living quarters for nurses working directly with COVID-19 patients and provision of oxygen to patients.

Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture constructed 24 classrooms, 44 toilets, 49 mini hostels and 47 ablutions with showers and renovated 4 hostels and 3 classrooms for the period under review.

Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, NAMPOL:

Construction of Onkumbula Police Station with accommodation, installation of 2 liters fuel tanks, pumps and a canopy at the amount of Five Million Ninety-Six Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Two Namibian Dollars and Ninety-Eight Cents **(N\$ 5 096 272.98)**.

Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, Namibian Police constructed two Flats during the period under review, one flat at Bravo Gate at the amount of One Million Five Hundred and Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-two Namibian Dollars Twenty four Cents (N\$1 507 822.24) and another flat at King Nehale Police Check Point at the amount of Nine Hundred and Eighty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty-Nine Namibian Dollars Ninety Three Cents (N\$989 689.93).

Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security-(Evaristus Shikongo Correctional Facility) - The following activities were carried out:

- Electrical Streetlights installed at an amount of Two Million Four Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand Three Hundred and Forty-Eight Namibian Dollars Sixty Eight cents **(N\$ 2, 433,348.68)**
- Sewer Pond constructed at the amount of Two Million Three Hundred and Eighty-Seven Thousand Twenty-Two Namibian Dollars Eighty cents **(N\$ 2, 387,022.80)**
- Minimum Security Facility Clinic constructed at Thirty-One Million and Twenty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixteen Namibian Dollars Seventy six Cents **(N\$ 31, 027,716.76)**

Honourable Chairperson

Human Capital Development -Okashana Rural Development Centre has provided job attachment training for 42 students in the departments of appropriate technology, community outreach and hospitality and 97 people were trained in Value Addition to local produce mainly on Jam Making from local Wild Melons, Pumpkins and Mutete.

Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb: I am pleased to announce that no employee was retrenched at Dundee, despite the effects of COVID-19 on the local economy.

Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment Creation: the Namibia Integrated Employment Information System (NIEIS) portal registered 236 jobseekers compare to 245 jobseekers that were expected to be registered.

Office of the Labour Commissioner Division: A total number of 106 cases were registered with the office of the Labour Commissioner for conciliation/arbitration, a total number of 78 cases were successfully resolved in conciliation and 15 were resolved at arbitration, whereas 7 were withdrawn and 6 were dismissed.

Honourable Chairperson,

Social Progression: As a Region, we are working tirelessly to ensure that basic needs of the residents are met. I am proud to say that all stakeholders in the Region are working together to establish blocks that will allow our communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives and create the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential.

Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Services screened and sent a total of 32 Children of Liberation Struggle from Oshikoto region for special civic and skills trainings at Berg Aukas Namibia Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT).

Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration registered 5854 births, issued 2707 birth certificate duplicates, 5791 ID cards were printed and regrettably 1537 death were registered.

Dundee Precious Metals Tsumeb provided support to various educational institutions in Oshikoto region for over Five Hundred and Ten Thousand Thousand (**N\$ 510,000.00**). Beneficiaries of such investments include: Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand (**N\$450,000.00**) invested to upskill 14 Caregivers at Education Development Centers, complementary support for school feeding programmes at 11 primary schools in Tsumeb and surrounding areas and vocation training support to youth in the community.

Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (Social Welfare Division), has sixteen thousand six hundred ninety-four elders on old age grant, the grant that is improving and sustaining our elders with food and nutrition status, 96 pension pay points and 3416 people on disability grant. 10.2% of households have social pension as the main source of income and 2.12% have other cash transfer as main income sources.

Ministry Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (Gender Equality division) hosted a Gender Base Violence campaigns intensified during the 16 days of activism

against Gender Base Violence last year. The Regional Gender Permanent Task Force is also in place and meets on a quarterly basis to discuss gender issues such as, teenage pregnancies, alcohol and drug abuse, unemployment and Gender Based Violence (GBV) that are encumbering development in the region.

Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs – Department of Veteran Affairs has conducted home visits to veterans. Our government has made it possible that each registered veteran receives once off lump sum which can also be inheritable by the dependant of the deceased veterans if it was not claimed by the veteran before he/she died.

For the period under review 5 claims has been processed. A total of 109 claims for monthly financial assistance to veterans were processed. Another 26 claims were processed under the improvement welfare grant that is given to unemployed veterans who underwent military training and deployed to the areas of operations/fronts, during liberation struggle.

Oshikoto Regional Council through food and nutrition programme assisted five projects engaged in poultry, gardening and fresh produce with materials to the value of Eighty-Four Thousand Six Hundred and Fifteen Namibian Dollars Four Cents **(N\$84,615.40)**.

The Council also implemented projects under Rural Sanitation Programme with an amount of One Million Fifty-Seven Thousand Six Hundred and Ninety-Two Namibian Dollars **(N\$1,057,692.00)**. Each constituency was allocated 5 toilets to benefit the vulnerable members of the society, giving a total of 50 constructed toilets in the region, with exemption of Tsumeb constituency due to hard rock in the identified areas of the constituency.

The Council compensated eight homesteads in Onayena and Oshivelo Settlements that were affected by urban development at an amount of Three Million Two Hundred and Forty-Three

Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Two Namibian Dollars
(N\$3,243,952.00).

Division of Lands acquired commercial farms, Farm Brakpan No. 1229 for resettlement purpose. On commercial land registration 2150 land right certificates were issued to the Ondonga Traditional Authority.

Omuthiya Town Council has budgeted an amount of Two Hundred and Forty Thousand Namibian Dollars **(N\$ 240 000)** for the construction of Disaster Risk Management camping site Erf 198, Omuthiya Proper.

National Housing Enterprises (NHE) was allocated 50 ervens for the construction of second phase houses of which 10 houses are fully completed while 40 houses are under construction. The council also awarded extra thirty ervens to NHE for construction of low-middle income houses.

Furthermore, 75 ervens were allocated to individuals and 50 ervens to different developers for the construction of houses at extension 8.

I am pleased to state that indeed our stakeholders are bringing services to the people. Omuthiya town council incorporate NATIS into the council structures the office that was officially inaugurated and started its operation in Omuthiya Town on the 20th October 2020.

Oniipa Town Council – Fifty-five houses were constructed and thirty eight houses are under construction by private and individual developers at the town.

The Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination's mandate is to supply water to rural communities and coordinate sanitation activities in rural and urban areas.

The directorate drilled 13 boreholes in Nehale LyaMpingana Constituency and a total of 13 boreholes were installed in 3

Constituencies namely Eengodi, Okankolo and Nehale LyaMpingana that has water scarcity.

There was an extension of the Ondangwa-Omuntele Pipeline and over 460 customers were registered and issued water meters for private off-takes. Water tanks and tank stands were erected at 21 schools from 7 constituencies.

Honourable Chairperson

The Region made good progress in terms of Regional development and it continues to promote investment through the development and implementation of strategic plans. Our efforts may have been uneven, and we still have much work to do, but we have demonstrated over the last year our shared determination to work together to confront our common challenges. However besides that there are still challenges that the Region is facing which are:

- The challenge of compensating the affected communities who paved way for development which still remains unresolved as the funds are limited and some community members are reluctant to pave way for development.
- Reduced capital subsidy allocations and delays in payment for capital projects claims disallow the execution of planned activities on time. This compels the Region to execute capital projects in phases; hence the projects durations are prolonged, resulting in increase of project costs due to inflation.
- Non decentralization of functions to the regional council makes it difficult for the region to deliver services in efficiency and effectively.
- Inaccessibility of service areas reach the rural communities in the Region due to poor road conditions, sandy and thick bush environment, particularly in Eengodi and Nehale LyaMpingina Constituencies.
- Insufficient and worn out GRN vehicles to carry out official duties.

- High rate of late birth registration due to home delivery and long distance to registration points.
- High Drop Out and high learner pregnancy rate
- Potable water remains a challenge especially in rural areas.
- Despite the sensitisation meetings, campaigns, and trainings conducted by the ministry, Gender Base Violence cases, rape and domestic violence are still experienced in the region.

Honourable Chairperson

Despite the above-mentioned challenges, the Region has achieved the following:

The Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture, has 221 schools, a total of Seventy-Five Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy (75670) learners, 2970 teachers. Regrettably, a total of 1220 learners dropped out of school which is 1.61% of the learners enrolled and 442 girls got pregnant.

A total of 3028 learners enrolled for grade 12 in 2020 of which only 727 (24.01%) qualified for tertiary education, 386 at University of Namibia, 153 at Namibia University of Science and Technology and 188 at International University of Management respectively.

Division of Land Reform - water supply infrastructures were constructed (Troughs, Water tank, Water stands, domestic taps) at five (5) farming units at a total amount of Eight Hundred and Forty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty-Nine Namibian Dollars (**N\$ 848,539.00**).

Two boreholes were drilled at Farm Vogelberg No 463, Unit A & B at a total amount of Four Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty-Three Namibian Dollars (**N\$ 469,453.00**), however only the borehole at unit B have water, borehole to be drilled further to the depth of 250m for further search of water zone.

Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

Regional office offered Basic Information Communication Technology classes to unemployed youth in the Region. They also conducted information sharing session with government offices, by discouraging the continuous use of papers, thus, “moving towards a paperless office”

Furthermore, MICT also conducted training on the Rural ICT centres at Eengodi and Omuntele constituencies. The main purpose of the training was to equip both the management committees and the volunteers with all the necessary knowledge and good understanding on the significant and importance of the Rural ICT centres.

Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension and Engineering Services in Oshikoto Region achieved the following:

Agronomic Interventions – Farmers were given government tractors to plough, plant, and ripped their land, this assisted 2283 farmers. Moreover, 27 metric tons of seed subsidy had been received in the Region, whereby a total of 20 metric tons had been sold to 2628 farmers, 35 metric tons of seeds (maize, pearl millet and sorghum) was given to 8128 farmers as free hand-outs to mitigate drought and 15 metric tons of fertilizers for subsidy were received and 21 metric tons of free fertilizers and were distributed to 2872 farmers.

Horticulture Production – In quest to contribute to increased food production, improve household food security, nutrition and employment creation, Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension and Engineering Services continue to support the existing gardens and the newly established gardens by providing training and technical advice to farmers and communities in the Region. A total of 3 community gardens, 7 individual farmers, 16 backyard gardens and 18 school gardens were supported and rendered technical advices. On the other hand, a total of 2788 farmers were trained through advisory services and by conducting information days on various crop and livestock.

Honourable Chairperson

The Region recommends the following:

- The Region is highly recommending for the local authorities to avail land at an affordable price to Namibian Police for the construction of houses.
- Implementation of programmes of Gender for male engagement for the promotion of Gender Equality including combating of Gender Base Violence and roll out Gender Base Violence programmes to rural areas of the Region.
- Mothers are encouraged to give birth at the hospitals and register their children's birth as soon as it occurred and the region is also appealing the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security to set up mobile registration points of national documents at far rural areas.
- There is a need to expedite the National Compensation Policy review to accommodate everyone affected in the compensation process.
- Increase capital subsidy allocations to resurrect halted developmental programs in the Region.

Honourable Chairperson

In an effort to stimulate economic growth and development, the Government of the Republic of Namibia apportions Resources to regions on annual basis. I am delighted to state and acknowledge the development budget for Oshikoto Region in 2021/2022. A total amount of N\$243 185 000.00 is availed to our Region for implementation of projects and programmes. It is my sincere believe and hope that all relevant stakeholders will demonstrate commitment in executing their duties.

As I conclude and in honour of our heroes and heroines who battled for the country's independence, I want to encourage all stakeholders in the Region to continue working together and harder for the benefit of the people of Oshikoto.

I believe strongly that our common goals and objectives are achievable because a “people united, striving to achieve a common good for all members of society will always emerge victorious”. Now is the time.

With these remarks, I urge us all, to protect ourselves and others around us by knowing the facts in taking appropriate precautions to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Let us continue to wear our mask properly, sanitize, wash our hands with soap and water and keep a one meter distance.

I thank you.