



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OHANGWENA REGION**

**STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS 2021
BY
HON. WALDE NATANGWE NDEVASHIYA
REGIONAL GOVERNOR**

**02 JULY 2021
10H00**

**EENHANA
OHANGWENA REGION**

- **Honourable Erickson Ndawanifa, Chairperson of Ohangwena Regional Council**
- **Honourable members of Parliament and All Regional Councillors**
- **Mr. Phillipus Shilongo, Chief Regional Officer of Ohangwena Regional Council.**
- **Your Worship the Mayors of Eenhana and Helao Nafidi and Chairperson of Okongo Village Council respectively**
- **Comrade Hafeni Hatutale, SWAPO Party Regional Coordinator**
- **Fellow residents of Ohangwena Region**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good Morning!!

I am delighted again this year to address the Regional Council in accordance with Article 110B, Sub-Article 5 and 6 of the Namibian Constitution.

I wish to express my deep and sincere appreciation to all Honourable Councillors, the residents of Ohangwena and other stakeholders for the support I have been receiving since my appointment as the Governor of Ohangwena Region.

Honourable Councillors, I believe today's meeting would have attracted a considerable number of audience but due to COVID 19 restrictions, this is unfortunately not possible. However, arrangements have been made with the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) for the event to be broadcasted live. It is also being streamed live from the Regional Council and Office of the Governor social media platforms.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON HONOURABLE COUNCILLORS

The State of the Region Address 2021 is structured based on the Harambee Prosperity Plan II Pillars.

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The Effective Governance Pillar is geared towards entrenching governance measures that aim to improve accountability and transparency; strengthening the national anti-corruption mechanisms; improving performance and service delivery; enhancing citizen participation and engagement, as well as security and the rule of law.

As part of the constitutional democracy, 2020 Regional and Local Authority Elections were freely and fairly conducted in Namibia, of which new Political Office Bearers in the Region were also elected. I therefore wish to congratulate the sixth Regional Council and the newly elected Local Authority Councillors and I wish you all well in your endeavours.

Our Region is faced with a number of socio-economic challenges such as unemployment, gender-based violence, income inequalities, housing needs, poor sanitation, road infrastructures and access to potable water. I strongly believe that these challenges can only be addressed through a shared vision of the leadership and all inhabitants in the Region, to bring about development and prosperity. It is on that note that I urge all residents of Ohangwena region to remain united to ensure that peace, security, and political stability is maintained.

The adoption of Performance Management System in most of the (O/M/As) in the Region and the signing of individual Performance Agreements by most of the staff members, is a clear testimony of commitment to fast-track developmental Programme, projects, and ultimately quality service delivery.

Participation of the Regional representatives in the development of the Second National Anti-Corruption Commission Strategic and Action Plan 2021 – 2025 demonstrates the commitment of the region to tackle and mitigate corruption in the Region. There are also established functional procurement structures at regional level to ensure timely, fairness, transparency and accountability in the acquisition of public works, goods and services. Therefore, I urge all prospective contractors and service providers to deliver as per contractual agreements, to ensure timely delivery of service in order to improve the livelihood and the quality of life of our people.

On the 20th May 2020 I unveiled the Strategic Developmental Roadmap, which has been serving as the blue print directing the programmes and activities in the Office of the Governor. The key strategic focus areas of the Roadmap are: Economic Development, Acceleration of land delivery, Youth Empowerment and Employment Creation, Food Security, access to potable water and Road Infrastructure development. In order to realize these strategic focus areas, I undertook a familiarization visit to all 12 constituencies in the region. This has given me an opportunity to engaged a number of stakeholders on regional developmental priorities and challenges.

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ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

The Economic Advancement Pillar aims to strengthen the stewardship of our natural resources, enhance the productivity of key sectors and develop complementary engines of growth and ultimately, new employment opportunities and macro-economic sustainability. However, the broader economic environment remains constrained as a result of various independent intervening variables, including COVID-19 which necessitates resilience and innovation to achieve our development objectives.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC SITUATION AND THE REGIONAL RESPONSE

This year the SORA is taking place during the devastating and deadly COVID -19 pandemic, which has severely impacted our Regional development plans and budget execution. However, we appreciate the visionary leadership of His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia for taking bold interventions to save our country from the worst through formulation and regular review of COVID-19 regulations.

Total number of 769,130 vulnerable individuals in Region benefited from the Emergency Income Grant at the cost of N\$ 55.8 Million as a relief measure during the difficult times of COVID-19. The Region also benefited from numerous donations such as food items, face masks, sanitizers and funds from different stakeholders in the region and beyond.

The Region recorded the first COVID -19 case in June 2020 and as of today we have recorded 2,147 positive cases out of 15,064 persons tested against the virus.

Regrettably, the Region has lost 55 lives due to this deadly virus; **MAY WE OBSERVE A MOMENT OF SILENCE**, may their souls rest in peace.

Despite the hardship of the novel coronavirus, in terms of human resources in response to the covid-19 pandemic threat, the Region managed to recruit 110 additional healthcare workers and 14 Medical graduates to assist with COVID-19 related duties. The following interventions were put in place to mitigate the impact posed by the global pandemic.

- The screening point for people entering from Angola through Oshikango/Santa Clara Border Post was renovated and upgraded.
- A Pre-fab container for safe screening and pre- isolation of suspected COVID-19 cases and other infectious diseases was built at Oshikango Border Post.
- All 3 District Hospitals now have newly constructed isolation units: Okongo 8 bed capacity, Enhana 12 bed capacity and Engela 8 bed capacity.
- The region has also, as a temporary measure converted the 70 bed TB ward of Engela Hospital into a covid-19 isolation facility.
- The region acquired multiple equipment, including among others 6 brand new ventilators to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Two ambulances were also acquired from national level as part of covid-19 regional response.

The COVID -19 Vaccines (ASTRA-ZENECA & COVI-SHIELD) consignment were received in the region and I was privileged to launch the vaccination campaign on the 19th April 2021 and I am among the first people who were vaccinated.

However, the vaccination is moving at a snail pace given the fact that to date 6,564 people received their first dose while 1,238 received their second dose.

Although the vaccination is voluntary, I would like to encourage those who did not yet receive their jobs to do so without hesitation. The general public should also refrain from negative conspiracy misinformation about the vaccines, and rather rely on proven advices from health professionals. In the same vein I am urging all of us to have faith in our Public Health Services.

In this regard, I wish to thank all Honourable Councillors, Religious and Traditional Leaders, Business Community as well as the Civil Society in the Region for their spirit of solidarity and patriotism on the fight against this invisible enemy.

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It is also worth mentioning that the Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture received **N\$ 48 Million** through COVID – 19 Emergency Fund for the construction of 56 ablution facilities and 13 hostel at schools across the region.

N\$ 2.4 Million was allocated to Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture for the provision of water supply through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform to 35 rural schools.

The Ministry of Trade and Industrialization have supplied 60, 000 masks to the office of the Governor for the value of N\$ 1. 1 Million, the masks were distributed to pensioners, people living with disability and vulnerable people in the region. Regardless of the challenges posed by COVID -19, the following developmental activities has taken place amidst the economic hardship.

- A number of 662 People that are engaged in different income generating activities in all 12 Constituencies have benefited from Rural Development Programme such as: ***Micro Finance, Food/Cash for Work, Support Resources for Poor Rural Farmers; Regional Specific Action Plan, One Region- One Initiative*** to the tune of **N\$ 2.34 Million**.
- Agro Marketing and Trade Agency Through the National Strategic Food Reserves (AMTA-NSFR) at their Silos in Okongo sold 1,139 (50kg) bags at the value of N\$ 280, 000.00, where 33 local Farmers benefited.
- A **Youth Group of** artisans from **Omulonga Constituency** received assistance of equipment aid to the value of N\$ 22,000.00, from development partners through the Office of the Governor.
- 2 SMEs have benefited from the Industrial Upgrading and Modernization Programme in the Region to the total value of N\$ 600 000.00
- Phase 1 of Oshikunde Multi-Purpose Youth Project has been successfully completed and the electricity connection is in progress to tune of N\$ 1 Million.

SOCIAL PROGRESSION

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With a focus on improved quality of life for all Namibians and particularly the vulnerable members of society, the Social Progression Pillar is the cornerstone of HPP II. To deliver on the promise of prosperity for all, the social progression outcomes demand a social compact and enduring partnerships between Government, development partners, business, academia, and civil society including the youth.

The region was challenged with the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak which restricted the movement of animals and animal products in and out of the Region, posing a setback to formal and informal traders. As a control measure to combat the outbreak, **165, 968** cattle were vaccinated against foot and mouth disease and lung sickness **80, 611**, cattle tagged **14, 754** and a total of **20, 473** cattle were

mouthed as part of Foot and Mouth Disease surveillance. The outbreak has been successfully controlled and all restrictive measures were lifted as of the 20th April 2021.

As of recent, the Region managed to contain the African Migratory Red Locust outbreak which invaded the Region in March 2021 posing threat to the expected bumper harvest in the Region.

The Region stood in solidarity with the Twaloloka Informal Settlers in Walvis Bay, in response to the fire outbreak that engulfed their houses and valuables, leaving hundreds of people homeless and without food. In this regard, the Region joined hands to donate materials and food items.

Furthermore, the region recorded a high number of students seeking for financial assistance to further their studies. To this effect, the Office of the Governor initiated a **Student Tuition Support Programme** aimed to assist students from vulnerable households. Financial assistance was solicited from development partners which resulted into 37 students benefiting with registration fees to the tune of N\$ 88 000.00.

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In efforts to provide decent shelters to marginalized and vulnerable people in our region, 10 houses were constructed for San Community Members in Onakalunga village. The houses were constructed with the financial support from Ombaye Fishing and Tsumkwe Community Trust. These efforts were meant to improve the living conditions for the marginalized communities in the Region.

The veterans of the liberation struggle continue to benefit from Government Programme aimed at providing social and economic support for veterans, which enable them to engage in sustainable initiatives and improve their livelihoods. Hence, the Veteran Welfare Programme of a once off lump sum of N\$ 50 000.00 benefited 5 veterans during the period under review bringing the total number of beneficiaries under this programme to 272 people.

A monthly financial assistance of N\$ 2, 200 per month paid to unemployed veterans or veterans whose annual income is below the prescribed amount of N\$ 36, 000, benefited 96 veterans during reporting period moving the total number of beneficiaries to 3684 people. A total number of 62 deceased veterans were granted Funeral Assistance to the tune of N\$ 700, 000. 00.

Through the Ministry of Fisheries, 15 farmers benefited from the distribution of fingerlings to the community in the region, while 3 new interested farmers were registers for Aquaculture Training Programme.

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With regards to land delivery in urban areas, Eenhana Town Council have serviced 420 low cost plots with electricity at Ekolola (Eenhana Extension 10 and 11) to the tune of N\$ 5,6 Million.

Proclamation and servicing of 304 low cost plots at Oukango through Public Private Partnership to a tune of 7,12 Million.

In addressing the housing shortages in Eenhana Town The following housing projects were implemented through Public Private Partnerships during the 2020/2021 financial year:

- 32 houses constructed at Omhito Ext. 6 by Eenhana United Construction: N\$ 25.6 Million
- 30 houses constructed at Eenhana Ext. 6 by Formosa Islands: N\$ 21,6 Million
- 45 houses constructed at Omhito Proper by Eenhana Town Council and DBN Project: N\$ 29,2 Million.
- 21 houses constructed at Omhito Ext 2 &3 and Eenhana Ext. 8 by Greywall Properties: N\$ 15,7 Million

Additionally, there were also 22 individual housing constructions at Eenhana Ext. 2 and 3 (low- Cost) during the reporting period, valued at **N\$ 3,3 Million**. This brings the total number of the houses constructed in Eenhana during the period starting June 2020 to June 2021 to 150 houses, with a combined value of about **N\$ 95, 5 Million**.

Over the past years, more than **6, 500** plots have been made available by Eenhana Town Council through the Public Private Partnership arrangements entered into with various developers as well as Council's funded "low income" area of Ekolola. With this, Council is hopeful that the pressing need of supplying land for development is being addressed and efforts are still ongoing to survey around **1, 668** more plots for possible allocation during the 2020/2021 Financial Year.

47 and 42 plots in Ongenga and Omungwelume Settlements were serviced with electricity to the tune of N\$ 3,4 Million. Electrification of 184 plots at the Reception Area (Shackdwellers Federation) in Okongo were also done to the tune of N\$ 2, Million, by NORED.

331 plots are fully serviced with water and roads reticulation constructed at Engela - Omafo extension 3 in Helao Nafidi town at a cost of N\$ 4, 3 Million.

The process of formalizing and proclamation of Ongha growth point to settlement status has been completed and 2,250 plots were planned within the settlement. Funding amounting to N\$ 3 Million has been secured to survey these plots. All these efforts are made to ensure orderly infrastructure development.

Ohangwena Communal Land Board has issued 2,058 customary land rights and 14 rights of leaseholds. 104 applications for occupational land rights were approved and 11 applications are still to be processed.

Ohangwena Regional Resettlement Committee received 65 applications for 1 resettlement farm advertised during the period under review and unfortunately none of the applicants from the region was successful. A total number of 15 land dispute were tabled before Communal Land Board, of which 3 were resolved and 12 were referred back to Traditional Authority for further investigations.

2 illegal fences in communal land have been voluntarily removed while 3 are yet to be removed by the Communal Land Board. I therefore urge public to refrain from illegal fencing.

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EDUCATION SECTOR

Education is an important catalyst to social change and sustainable development to our society hence our region is still forging ahead for accessible, equitable and quality education for all.

3 new private schools were registered bringing the total number of schools in the region to 273 schools. Learners enrollment rate increased from 112 358 to 115 262 learners.

6 Senior Secondary Schools are offering Namibian Senior Secondary Certificate Advanced Subsidiary whereby 681 learners are enrolled for this certificate. 650 adult learners enrolled for Family Literacy and 1016 adult learners are enrolled for National Literacy Programme in Namibia.

The establishment of a University Campus in the Region is among the top priorities in the Region. The fact that the regional population is the second highest in the country of which the majority are young people serves as a sensible justification for the establishment of a University campus in the region.

The regional leadership has tirelessly engaged a number of higher educational institutions towards the establishment of a university campus in the region. I am therefore pleased to inform the house that the Namibia University of Science and Technology has agreed to set up a satellite campus in the region and plans are well underway. The campus will offer an assortment of programmes with particular focus on Natural Science, Management Science as well as Technical and Vocational Education Training.

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The Namibian Statistics Agency census mapping was conducted successfully in the region. This exercise was completed in April 2021, and all the buildings were visited and captured. On behalf of the Ohangwena Regional Council, I would like to thank and give credit to the usual residents of Ohangwena Region for your cooperation you have rendered during this important exercise.

I am assured by the Namibian Statistics Agency that key highlights of this census mapping exercise will be made readily available to the Regional Council in due course. The information is key to Regional planning and policy formulation as we strive to provide quality services to our people.

Another milestone has been observed as an introduction of Electronic Border Management System that resident permit holders are no longer required to complete the arrival/ departure forms at the borders.

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON HONOURABLE COUNCILLORS

Crime undermines developmental agenda in a number of ways, it erodes social and human capital, it also forces skilled people to migrate leaving the region brain drained. Despite numerous achievements, Ohangwena Region stands among the regions with increased number of crimes. It is therefore disheartening to report to this house that the region recorded the total number of 4,912 during the period under review. The following crime statistics:

- Domestic Violence increased from 71 to 252 cases.
- Drugs Dealing increased from 51 to 86 cases.
- Theft of Motor Vehicles increased from 11 to 15 cases.
- Murder increased from 24 to 29 cases.
- Robbery increased from 96 to 129 cases.

The above statistics are worry-some hence requires all of us to join hands in the fight against these social evils. The Namibian Police is committed to the provision of safety and security in terms of creating a conducive working environment for the man and human in uniform. Hence, the following projects are currently being implemented.

- Construction of Charge Office, Cell Block, Male and Female single quarters and married quarters at Endola Police Station
- Construction of Eenhana Police Barracks for male single quarters and married quarters
- Construction of Class B Ongha Police Station

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Infrastructure Development is a catalyst for economic growth and social progression, contributing to employment creation, investment attraction, facilitating trade and global competitiveness. The relationship between infrastructure development and economic transformation cannot be over emphasized. Infrastructure is a magnetic force that attracts investments and improve socio-economic development. The adequate infrastructures in the form of roads, water, electricity and buildings is therefore necessary.

Ohangwena Region is one of the regions with the largest poor road networks especially at the eastern parts of the Regions. Many Government Institutions are very difficult to be accessed, due to the fact that roads are very bad or non-existent. This has therefore negatively affected our people in terms of accessing essential services like Hospitals, Schools, Shopping facilities and water points.

During the period under review, the construction of DR 4113: Endola-Eemboo and DR 3650: Epinga-Onakalunga have commenced. To this effect, the ground breaking ceremonies for the constructions of these gravel roads took place in May 2021.

These roads are being constructed with the financial support from KfW- Germany government on labor based method. Other roads to be considered under this Programme in Ohangwena region are:

- DR 4119: Oshuuli- Omulondo (12 Km)
- DR 3622: Omboloka- Omukukutu (25 Km)
- DR 3624: Omundaungilo- Omboloka (86 Km)

11 access gravel roads to schools and clinic are being constructed in Endola, Engela and Ongenga

Constituencies respectively under the Climate Change Programme of KfW- Germany Government to provide access to schools and clinics during rainy seasons and when Oshanas are flooded.

Ohangwena Regional Council, with funds from Road Fund Administration, managed to re-gravel 1.6 km of streets within Omungwelume settlement to the tune of N\$ 758,000.00. Okongo Village Council and Eenhana Town Council has also maintained roads within their localities to the tune of N\$ 768,000.00 and N\$ 1.4 Million respectively.

The Construction of 5 Km gravel roads in Ohangwena and Omafo extensions at the cost of N\$ 1,4 Million was also completed.

In addition, Elolo- Olukula- Onghwiyu feeder road in Okongo constituency is under construction through cash-food for work programme.

As Regional Leadership, we are not sitting idle. A lot of efforts have been invested in terms of planning and in this regard we have a number of strategic and crucial roads that have been planned to be developed across the Region, especially in the eastern part of the Region. Despite financial challenges the region is still committed and has prioritized the upgrading of the following roads to bitumen standards.

- DR3602 Elundu/Oushake – Okankolo
- TR 10/2 Phase 2 Eenhana – Onhuno
- DR3625 Ondobe/Okahenge - Oshigambo
- DR3611 TR 10/2 Oshidute – Omundaungilo
- DR3639 Ohengobe – Odibo – Oshikango (35.8)
- DR3647 Onawa – Ohailulu

However, to partially address these challenges, the Office of the Governor initiated a “**Roads Betterment Project**” with the purpose of upgrading some access roads leading to schools, clinic and growth centres.

- Epembe – Omuhongo
- C45 Road - Onamafila
- Onambutu – Onaisaati

Roads Infrastructure Development is one of our key priority focus area and we will continue engaging Roads Authority and other development partners on the development of strategic roads (gravel and bitumen standards) in the Region.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Water provision is the most important enabler for Regional socio-economic development. In line with the Regional Water Master Plan the extraction of water from Ohangwena Aquifer II and the development of water infrastructure will continue to feature as one of our key priority for the next 5 years.

Ohangwena Region is one of the Regions battling with the provision of potable water to its inhabitants, especially the Constituencies in the eastern part of the Region Particularly Okongo, Oshikunde, Epembe and Omundaungilo Constituencies.

In response to this challenge, 4 deep boreholes were drilled and installed tapping water from Ohangwena Aquifer II at **Oshangu, Omunyanghwe, Eexwa and Omulondo villages** at the cost of **N\$ 2, 6 Million**. These boreholes are reticulating water to the surrounding villages in the radius of 10 Km.

8 shallow boreholes were drilled in Okongo and Oshikunde Constituencies at the cost of N\$ 2, 4 Million. 17 boreholes were installed in Omundaungilo, Okongo and Oshikunde constituencies at the cost of N\$ 16, 2 Million.

A 5 mega liters water Reservoir and a Defloration plant was constructed in Eenhana Town by NamWater at a cost of **N\$ 30 Million**. This project is enabling Eenhana to tap water from Ohangwena Aquifer II, and will alleviate the water problems that the town and surrounding villages has been experiencing in the past.

The Region has further engaged the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Land Reform regarding the water situation in the Region. The Government through the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform has secured funding from African Development Bank, of which part of the funding will be used to develop Ohangwena Aquifer II in terms of water infrastructure development and distribution of potable water for human and animal as well as Agricultural purposes.

45 short kilometre pipelines were installed in 9 constituencies across the region at the cost of N\$ 3,4 Million and 293 individual households were connected with private offtakes.

35 water points were installed at various schools through Covid-19 School Water Provision Project in the region.

Under the current financial year, N\$ 10 Million has been secured for the construction of rural secondary pipelines in the villages across the line.

Poor sanitation continues to be a cause of water borne diseases therefore, the region strives to provide clean water and proper sanitation to its people. Ohangwena Regional Council constructed 120 toilets and through awareness campaigns 1,863 were constructed by the community itself.

As an intervention to address water scarcity in rural areas, the Region has initiated a **Water Infrastructure Development Project** with the assistance from development partners with the purpose to provide potable water to communities.

EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Education Infrastructure are crucial elements for conducive teaching and learning environments in schools. There is strong evidence that good infrastructures improve academic performance and reduces dropout rates for learners.

During the period under review, the construction of 6 hostel blocks, a kitchen and multipurpose hall at Shituwa Senior Secondary School has been successfully completed and handed over. The renovation

of 3 blocks of classrooms as well as the dining hall at Ongha Senior Secondary School has been completed successfully.

The provision of school hygiene and sanitation ensures the rights of students to acceptable hygiene practices, safe water supply, latrines and a healthy school environment in general. Through Covid-19 Emergency Fund, 32 dry pits and 24 flushing toilets were constructed at number of schools to the value of N\$ 24, 5 Million.

The renovation of Omungwelume Secondary School hostel facilities has been being completed, pending the sewerage system with progress at 60%. Furthermore, the overhaul and installation of sewerage pump stations was done at Dr Abraham Iyambo Secondary School, Elia Weyulu Combined School, Mwadikange Kaulinge Secondary School and Eengedjo Combined School at the total cost of N\$ 10, 2 Million.

Early childhood care plays an important role in children's development and provides valuable support to families with young children. In this regard, 7 Early Child Development Centers has been constructed across the Region to the tune of N\$ 6.1 Million.

Budgetary provisions for the current financial year have been made to commence with the following projects:

- Okongo Community Library phase 2: N\$ 1,5 Million
- Construction of Epembe Vision School: N\$ 5 Million.
- Upgrading and extension of Oshikunde Secondary School: N\$ 8 Million.
- Extension of Ohangwena Regional Council Offices Phase 1: N\$ 10 Million.
- The construction of Ohangwena Directorate of Education Regional Office: N\$ 5 Million.
- Establishment of a new primary School in Eenhana Town and construction of 19 classrooms at 4 different schools at the cost of N\$ 6.2 Million.
- Construction of Eenhana Sports complex: N\$ 6.4 Million
- Completion of Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform regional office at Eenhana to a tune of N\$ 12.9 Million.
- Construction of Veterans Affairs Regional Offices to a tune of N\$ 4.5 Million.
- Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare has also secured land to build the Regional Office in Eenhana Town.

The following infrastructure donations has been received from Friends in Education

- Oluhapa Combined School: received 2 classroom block and a storeroom, 100 learner's desks and chairs as well as 4 teacher's chairs and desks from the Namibia Community Trust.
- Omutaku Combined School: to receive a 4 classroom block and 1 storeroom from NAMPOWER.
- Titus Ndjaba Combined School: to receive 3 classroom blocks and 1 storeroom from NAMPOWER.

- Okanghudi Combined School: to receive a 4 classroom block and 1 storeroom from the Former President His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba.

HEALTH SECTOR

Ohangwena Region is the second highest populated in Namibia following Khomas. The region is vast and people under Eenhana and Okongo district still walk long distances to access health care services.

This has prompted the region to focus its plans on building new health facilities in constituencies mostly affected such as Okongo, Oshikunde, Epembe, Omulonga and Eenhana in order to shorten distances and provide equitable services to the people. Specifically, the plan for the new clinics will focus on Oshiti shaHaihonya, Ombuudiya and Oshalumbu in Okongo Constituency; Ohamikoka in Epembe constituency; Okanaimbula in Eenhana Constituency; Onambaladi and Oluwaya in Oshikunde constituency and Onamahoka in Omulonga Constituency.

The region has a stretch of over 260 kilometers shared borders with the neighboring Angola and it is estimated that 15 – 20% of patients attended especially in the Engela District Hospital are cross border patients.

Provision of health care services is done at 39 public health facilities and 144 outreach points. There are also private consulting rooms in Helao Nafidi, Eenhana and Okongo. The region has one private hospital in Eenhana.

However, as part of the Regional Health Directorate's commitments to provide primary health care, the following infrastructures were setup during the period under review.

- A new pre-fab clinic was constructed at Ohaukelo to replace the dilapidated one
- Upgrading and renovation of Engela OPD which includes Doctors consulting room, Dental, Eye clinic as well as physiotherapy departments has been completed.
- All 3 District Hospitals in the Region have acquired brand new quality sonar machines meant to improve maternal and neo-natal health care services.

ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Energy infrastructure is key for any modern and growing society. Apart from the electrifications by Local Authorities as part of Land Delivery Programmes, Rural Electrification has been done in some parts of the region.

Oshamukweni Rural Electrification Project which includes the installation of 33 KV over headlines of 15 km, 4 transformers, low voltage outside lighting distribution system and the wiring Oshamukweni Combined School. The project was completed to the tune of N\$ 4, 5 Million. The same project also included the electrification of Oshalumbu Clinic and 3 growth points namely: Omipapa, Eengeete and Oshalumbu.

25 growth points, 7 schools, 1 Clinic and 1 police sub-station localities and facilities has been electrified through the Constituency Development Fund across the Region to the tune of N\$ 5,1 Million.

Additional 12 schools across the region were electrified by the Ministry of Mines and Energy through Rural Electrification Programme. During the current financial year budgetary provision has been made to electrify more localities at the total amount of N\$ 6, 1. Million.

Network connectivity is a significant factor that has become a necessity to all citizens; and a wheel that drives and positively contributes to the regional socio-economic development and betterment of people's livelihoods.

As part of the 081 Everyone Project aimed to footprint a 100% percent connectivity countrywide, ICT solution provider MTC erected a number of Network towers during the reporting period connecting communities of Onepandaulo, Onamunama, Ondjandjxwi, Oushake, Omutwewondjaba, Eembaxu, Onamahoka and Otunganga villages.

**HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON
HONOURABLE COUNCILLORS**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

As part of bilateral agreement between the Republic of Namibia and the Republic of Angola I am pleased to report that in April 2021, I was part of the delegation led by the Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security that participated in Bilateral Meeting Lubango, Angola. The meeting deliberated on the following:

- The continued influx of Angolans migrants in to Namibia due to the drought situation in some provinces in Angola and in search for employment opportunities.
- The re-opening of borders between Namibia and Angola that closed due to the COVID - 19 pandemic.
- The extension of Oshikango- Santa-Clara border post operations to 24 hours.
- Amendment to the Visa waiver agreement, enabling extension period from 30 to 90 days' entry for citizens of both countries.

As a result, the Governor of Cunene Province, Her Excellency Gerdina Ulipamwe Didalelwa paid a one-day Working Visit to Ohangwena Region to assess the situation on the ground regarding the Angolan nationals who fled into Namibia due to severe drought experienced in Southern Angola.

The Governors also deliberated on issues of common concern and interest affecting the communities living along the common border, among others:

- Re-opening of borders;
- Angolan learners who commute daily into Namibia to attend school;
- Angolan nationals seeking medical attention in Namibia;
- Namibian farmers grazing in Angola;
- Cooperation between traditional authorities;
- Animal health and disease control;
- Increment in the illegal trading activities;
- Security along the common borderline;
- Cross border crimes; and
- Illegal border crossing

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the establishment of the Governors Forum supported by Technical Committees, comprising of various sectors, to address various challenges of common concern and find workable solutions.

**HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON
HONOURABLE COUNCILLORS**

Despite the achievements as elaborated, the Region is facing a number of significant challenges that slows down the successful implementation of programmes and projects, which ultimately have a direct impact on speedy delivery of services to the public. Some of these challenges are as follows:

- Poor road infrastructures
- Access to potable water and slow pace of water infrastructure development
- Insufficient budgetary allocation for Crop fields compensation which affect land delivery in urban areas.
- There is only one gazetted entry point on a stretch of over 260 km along the Namibia-Angola common border, forcing the people to enter and leave the country illegal using ungazetted points.
- High rate of unemployment
- Slow pace of enterprise development especially among youth
- There is no referral hospital in the region. The region relies heavily on Oshakati and Onandjokwe intermediate hospitals for referral of patients. Oshakati is +- 200 kms from Okongo, 65kms from Engela and about 100km from Eenhana. Referral is done on daily basis for emergencies and weekly for appointment referrals or cold cases.
- Poor network coverage in some parts of the Region

As a Regional Leadership we are aware of these challenges facing the region of which most have been prolonged due to economic constraints and COVID-19 and others. It is therefore, imperative to note that these socio-economic challenges cannot be addressed at once.

In conclusion, as we are facing the common enemy COVID – 19 which is a human crisis that calls for solidarity, we the people of Ohangwena should continue to work in harmony, putting our political differences aside and putting the best of our minds together. I am positive that if we work in harmony we will be able to overcome the challenges ahead of us and deliver our people in this struggle for economic emancipation.

Nelson Mandela once said; “Real leaders must be ready to sacrifice all for the freedom of their people”. Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do. It always seems impossible until it is done. With the prevailing COVID-19 we shall overcome, as long as we continue to wash our hands, sanitize and above all to get vaccinated.

Let us all be UNITED FOR A GREENER AND BETTER OHANGWENA. May God bless Ohangwena Region. Long Live the Republic of Namibia. I thank you!