



Republic of Namibia

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
OHANGWENA REGION**

STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS

16 July 2018

Venue: Eenhana Convention Centre

- Honorable Erickson Ndawanifa, Chairperson of the Management Committee,
- Honorable members of Parliament and All Regional Councilors,
- Your Worship the Mayors of Eenhana and Helao Nafidi Town,
- The Chairperson of Okongo Village Council,
- Honorable Local Authority Councilors,
- The Special Advisor to the Governor,
- The Chief Regional Officer,
- Chief Executive Officers of Local Authorities: Eenhana, Helao Nafidi and Okongo
- Representatives of Oukwanyama, Ondonga and Uukwambi Traditional Authorities,
- Comrade Hafeni Hatutale, Regional Coordinator of SWAPO Party and other Political Parties representatives present,

- Representatives of Government Offices/Ministries/Agencies and Private Organisations,
- Representatives of Constituency and Settlement Development Committees,
- Members of the business fraternity,
- Spiritual leaders,
- Distinguished invited guests,
- Fellow residents of Oshana Region,
- Members of the Media,
- Ladies and Gentlemen

A very good morning to you all!

The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia under Article 110B mandates the Governor to address the Regional Council on the state of the region, planned activities of the Central Government in the region and

report on the activities of Central Government of the previous year in the region.

As a representative for the President and Central Government in the region, I am pleased to address you on the state of the Region, the occasion where we as leaders and representatives of our people are given an opportunity to review our performance, interact and give answers to outstanding and current issues. It is also an opportunity to map out the way forward towards continued implementation of government policies, programmes and projects. I am therefore glad to see you in such a big number to listen to this very important State of the Region Address.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

This address takes account of the implementation of regional plans as aligned to the National Development Programmes for the period under review aimed at achieving vision 2030. Ohangwena Region made reasonable strides in achieving most of the national development targets in terms of the **Harambee Prosperity Plan** implementation.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

For **Effective governance**, Ohangwena Regional Council has adopted the Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022 in order to enhance evidence based planning, monitoring and evaluation processes. This is done by using Information management system that captures prevailing data and statistics at schools, hospitals, settlements, and constituencies for informed decision making. In addition, this plan aims to ensure enabling working environment

and high performance culture as well as to improve regional development planning.

The plan is complemented by the appointment of the new Chief Regional Officer as from 1st March 2018, who is spearheading the successful implementation of the plan in adherence to Performance Management System (PMS).

The region has developed a Website and Customer Service Charter which are vital milestones for the Regional Council as it integrates the functions and inputs from all Directorates and Divisions. This is to ensure that citizens are well informed and educated about our operations and service, so that we improve quality service delivery at all levels of our operations.

We recognize the fact that, efficient service delivery requires continuous concerted efforts and commitments of all stakeholders in order to improve our interface with our

customers. It is no surprise that Ohangwena Region is ranked number one (1) on service delivery as per the Citizen Satisfaction Survey of 2017. It is therefore, my sincere call to all stakeholders to keep on improving our service delivery for the prosperity of citizens. As part of the Government service reform, the Performance Management System was introduced to keep everybody accountable from management to operational level employees, hence I urge supervisors to ensure that subordinates sign Performance Agreements and conduct performance reviews as scheduled.

In order to optimally utilize scarce government resources and to ensure efficiency, I call upon all regional stakeholders to embrace coordinated and smart planning approaches on regional projects implementation and service delivery.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

Since the enactment of the Decentralization Enabling Act, Act 33 of 2000, only the Ministry of Education, Land Reform, Information and Communication Technology and Works Maintenance have delegated functions to the Regional Council. The process of Decentralization is moving on a snail pace, depriving citizens of quality service delivery, hence we encourage other Ministries who have not yet delegated their functions to follow suit. I would therefore like to recommend that a Regional Decentralization Committee be established to spearhead and fast-track this process.

With the assistance of Anti-Corruption Commission, Ohangwena Region launched the Integrity Management report in 2017. The main emphasis was to alert regional stakeholders on corrupt practices and sensitize them on

the impact that corruption has on society. I would therefore like to re-emphasize a call by the President to pull in one direction in the fight against corruption, nepotism and maladministration as these practices are enemy number one (1) in our war against poverty.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

Ohangwena Region still faces a number of challenges such as; income disparities, high unemployment rate and extreme poverty. The regional unemployment rate currently stands at 45.4% which is relatively high than the national average. However, the region is determined to accelerate development in defined priority areas that have the potential to bring about **Economic Enhancement** and prosperity to all its citizens.

During the period under review, a total number of fifteen (15) Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) were supported with equipment, materials and startup capital through Micro Finance programme in the region. The supported SMEs are in the areas of carpentry, fish shop, tailoring, jewelry and beads making, pottery, furniture, poultry and restaurant. Other projects such as Horticulture and wood making were also supported under Rural Development interventions to the tune of one point eight million (N\$ 1,800,000.00).

A number of temporary employment opportunities were created through government capital investments such as construction of Eembaxu Rural Development Centre, Basic Education, Police and Health Facilities, Ongenga oxidation ponds, renovation and maintenance of various government infrastructures.

As part of the governor's employment creation initiative, Embwanyana Youth Agricultural Project in Oshikunde Constituency was established with support from NAMSOV Trust Fund. The solar-powered borehole drilled at the project site is now functional. Once fully realized, the project is expected to provide employment to our youth and enhance food security in the region.

As the President has declared this year as a year of “**reckoning**” I would therefore like to urge the custodian Ministry, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry and all relevant stakeholders including Private Sector to enter into Public Private Partnership (PPP) to ensure that Ohangwena Aquifer II is fully explored and implemented to provide adequate water for human and animal consumption as well for agricultural purposes.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

Ohangwena Region continues to implement deliberate and targeted interventions to ensure **Social Progression** by dealing with challenges of poverty, disease pandemics, inadequate access to clean water, sanitation and electricity, teenage pregnancies, gender based violence and long distances to schools, among others.

During the period under review a total of fifty three thousand, two hundred and sixty seven (53,267) people were tested for HIV of which, two thousand, one hundred and forty six (2,146) tested positive. This has brought the total number of people on ARV treatment to twenty four thousand, seven hundred and ninety six (24,796) in the region.

The region continues to conduct HIV counseling and testing program at all health facilities. In addition two (2) surge and one (1) SMART generation campaign were conducted to raise awareness on HIV infections,

prevention, treatment, care and support. These types of campaigns targets men and young people, adolescent girls and young women.

TB cases are increasing, which is a matter of concern. According to the national TB report for 2017/18, Ohangwena Region was the 2nd in TB cases notified with one thousand, one hundred and seven (1,107) of all forms, next to Khomas region which is number one. Engela District Hospital recorded more cases due to patients from neighbouring country, Angola. Much has been done to improve environmental structures of some health facilities and to improve ventilation by way of installation of fans and construction of outside shelters with sitting benches to minimize overcrowding inside the health facilities so that it helps to reduce the chances of TB transmission.

The initiations of Direct Observation Treatments (DOTs) points of prefabricated containers and implementation of

several programs also helped in the reduction of TB infection transmission.

At least all TB patients were tested for HIV (99.3%) and the HIV prevalence has slightly decreased again from 34% in 2016/17 to 33% during the reporting period. All positive cases were put on ARVs. Only two cases of Leprosy were reported in the region which is a reduction compared to previous years.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

I am disturbed by the increase of Malaria cases in the region. The region declared a Malaria outbreak in 2017 which saw five thousand, four hundred and forty (5,440) confirmed cases, with nine (9) deaths. Despite these challenges, efforts in collaboration with various stakeholders such as mass health education and screening,

follow up contacts, mass Malaria spraying and advance awareness campaigns were conducted to curb Malaria.

It is also worth mentioning that there is an upward trend and improvement in Voluntary Male Medical Circumcision cases conducted during the reporting period from three thousand, five hundred and thirty four (3,534) to four thousand, seven hundred and forty six (4,746). Five hundred and thirty eight (538) people were assisted with wheel chairs and assistive devices such as walking sticks and frames through our rehabilitation services. The surgical cataract campaign was exceptionally conducted in the region restoring eye sights of three hundred (300) patients surpassing the planned target of two hundred and fifty (250).

On developmental social welfare services, community education on prevention of social ills plays a major role for community members to seek supportive services when

experiencing problems. Eighty six (86) people were saved from attempted suicide through counseling while ninety six (96) were saved the previous year. Fifty six (56) suicide cases were recorded which would have been high if these interventions were not implemented.

Family Health Division is coordinating the primary health care services which include mother and child health care, and adolescent health services. The outreach service coverage increased from 90% to 98%. We have also noticed antenatal coverage increased from 101% to 116%. The expanded immunization programme coverage though it decreased from 101% to 97% it is still normal because the target is 95%, this is caused by stock out of some vaccines. Although thirty four (34) Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities are run by registered nurses, the region is faced with a shortage of health personnel. Moreover, the region has 95 community health workers who graduated last year but are still not yet recruited, which widens the

gap between health facilities and home-based care services. Teenage pregnancy is still high (16%) only reduced by 1% from last year, posing health and social challenges to our communities.

In an effort to fight poverty, government established three (3) offices at Eenhana, Engela and Okongo which are responsible for administration of Social Grant services. At the moment, twenty thousand, six hundred and sixty seven (20,667) beneficiaries receive the old age pension grant, while four thousand, six hundred and ninety six (4,696) are receiving disability grant in Ohangwena Region.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

Ohangwena is committed to making land available for housing, agriculture and businesses to its citizens in

communal areas, local authorities and settlements. I am glad to inform you that **two (2) applicants** were approved and allocated farming units by the Minister of Land Reform as per the recommendations of the Ohangwena Regional Resettlement Committee to the Commission.

A total number of Four Thousand, Six hundred and Fifty Three (4,653) customary land rights (CLR) were tabled before the board for ratification of which Three Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seventy Four (3,774) land rights were ratified by the board and certificates issued to the Traditional Authority. Eight hundred and Seventy Nine (879) applications were referred back to the Traditional Authority (TA) because of incompleteness and other administrative issues.

I would like to caution and advise Traditional Authorities, especially village headmen and women who are the custodians of communal land administration on behalf of

government to ensure that reasonable corridors are kept between individual land parcels to facilitate free movement of animal, people and vehicles. Furthermore we should encourage our subjects to refrain from unnecessary clearing and cutting of vegetation and trees.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

Agriculture is the backbone of our national economy and its one of the identified sectors capable of creating the much needed jobs, increase food production and ensure household food security. In 2017 three hundred and twenty four (324) farmers benefited from subsidized fertilizers while two thousand, one hundred and thirty (2,130) farmers benefited from subsidized mahangu and cowpeas seeds. In addition, a total of two thousand, three hundred and sixty seven (2,367) communal farmers benefited from Government ploughing services which

created three hundred and sixty two (362) temporary employment for private tractor and draught animal owners.

During the year under review, thirty eight (38) community and school backyard gardens were monitored and provided with information on horticultural production and marketing to improve household food security. As part of Livestock marketing, three (3) auctions were held at Oushake Auction kraal whereby a total number of forty eight (48) cattle and twelve (12) goats were auctioned at a combined amount of three hundred and thirty two thousand and six hundred Namibia dollars (N\$332,600.00).

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

Although Ohangwena did not benefit from the mass housing project, the region managed to build sixty (60) urban low cost housing units at Helao Nafidi, while five hundred and forty (540) houses were constructed in Eenhana town via Public-Private Partnerships, bringing a total of new six hundred (600) houses in the region. Through these arrangements, an array of low to middle income houses is being developed to cater for an additional fourteen thousand, seven hundred and seventy seven (14,777) residents in Eenhana town.

Eenhana Town Council plans to deliver six thousand and five hundred (6,500) serviced plots by 2020, at the moment they are busy servicing one hundred and seventy (170) plots for low income earners at Ekolola Suburb. Helao Nafidi Town Council serviced five hundred and fifty six (556) plots with sewer, water and roads; they have also planned to service the same plots with electricity this financial year. Okongo Village Council has

planned and surveyed 600 erven for the period under review. Three hundred and forty one (341) plots are planned to be serviced with sewer, water and electricity at Ongenga and Omungwelum settlements

The Regional Council has identified additional growth points in the Region, like Ondobe, Ongha and Endola to be declared as settlement areas. Ongha town land boundaries was surveyed with the assistance and cooperation from the local community, which led to council passing a resolution for the proclamation of the township. So far the application for the township establishment was submitted to Township Board and Namibia Planning Advisory Board for approval before gazetting.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

While Namibia sanitation status is a matter of concern with only half of the population having access to decent sanitation, Ohangwena Region is one of the luckiest regions to have Ondingwanyama village in Eenhana Constituency as the first village in the country to be declared free from open defecation after construction of sixty eight (68) toilets at all households in the village. This programme was implemented by Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In addition, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme was introduced in our schools in order to ensure hygiene and cleanness in our communities.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

In terms of access to education, a net enrollment rate in primary and secondary education of 87% and 71%

respectively has been recorded during the period under review. Currently, the total school enrolment stands at one hundred and five thousand, five hundred and sixty five (105,565) learners, an increase of three thousand and thirty five (3,035) learners at two hundred and sixty five (265) schools. The increase in enrollment is attributed to the establishment of three (3) additional schools in the region, as well as the extension of curriculum at eight (8) Junior Secondary schools and phasing in grades at ten (10) primary schools. This is an indication that we are pulling in the right direction in ensuring access to education.

As part of learner retention and poverty eradication strategy, seventy six thousand, one hundred and thirty three (76,133) learners are benefiting from the School Feeding Programme. The school feeding programme is yielding positive results because we have 87% survival rate of learners completing primary education, however

we are still challenged by a high dropout level at secondary phase with 30% survival rate due to teenage pregnancy and other social challenges.

During the year under review, there was a slight drop of 3.43% from 58.85% to 55.42% pass rate in grade 10. However, the region still performed well in some subjects at grade 10 with Mathematics at 54.9%, Physical Science 46.1%, Life Science 45.8% while in grade 12 Mathematics was at 49.9%, Physical Science 43.2%, hence, received national awards and named the science region. The number of ICT users in Libraries/mobile libraries has also increased significantly since the introduction of shift system at the Regional Library at Helao Nafidi which also operates on Saturdays

Despite this good performance, I'm still worried about poor performance in English subject, denying a number of

learners access to tertiary education. This year, only 2.6% of full-time candidates met University entry requirements.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

As part of the upliftment of the plight of veterans of the liberation struggle, the region has achieved following:

- One hundred and thirty five (135) Individual Veterans Projects (IVPs) were approved and funded
- One hundred and forty six (146) tombstones were erected on the graves of deceased veterans
- Ninety eight (98) families benefited from Funeral Assistance program to ensure that registered veterans of the national liberation struggle are accorded a respectable and dignified burial.
- One hundred and sixty two (162) liberation heritage sites identified and registered

- Four thousand, four hundred and twenty one (4,421) veterans were approved as registered veterans and four thousand, two hundred and thirty six (4,236) veterans received their Lumpsum payout
- Two thousand, three hundred and sixty three (2,363) veterans are entitled to monthly subvention
- Seven hundred and twenty (720) veterans are entitled to Improvement grant.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

I am reliably informed that there are some veterans or their family members misusing monthly grants and other resources aimed at improving the wellbeing of veterans. This situation is very disturbing as it is defeating the purpose of the veterans program and it should come to an end.

As per the call from his Excellency the President, “**No one should feel left out in the Namibian House**”. The region has embarked upon Mass San Community mobile registration campaign to enable them access government grants and social benefits and also integrate them in the mainstream economy. The 20 days campaign was overwhelmed with eight hundred and eighty four (884) san people having been issued with birth certificates while eight hundred and eight seven (887) received Identity Documents.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

Infrastructure development is the backbone for both social and economic advancement. The region has done well in terms of infrastructure development in the area of energy, education and health, water, transport and ICT

infrastructure. I am therefore proud to report the following achievements:

- Eight (8) boreholes were equipped with solar systems at Oshikunde and Okongo constituencies with the financial assistance from NAMSOV Trust Fund.
- Two (2) boreholes were drilled and pump machines installed at Okanyandi and Omundaungilo sub-police stations.
- A new water pump station to increase water pressure for Omafo – Eenhana pipeline was installed.
- Construction of the new oxidation pond at Ongenga settlement.
- Construction of municipal services at Engela – Omafo extension 1 and 2 which includes water, sewer, roads and electrical reticulation.
- Construction of the effluent treatment plants in Oshikango and Ohangwena suburbs of Helao Nafidi

Town as well as Sewage Trickle Filter Treatment Plant at Okongo Village were completed and will be commissioned soon.

- Construction of police station with cell block, staff accommodation, erection of water tower at Omauni Police station & Okanyandi Police post are at a final stage.
- Land secured to construct police stations at the following places: Ongha, Omulonga, Eengodi Danatuwe, Oshaango, Oshiti shiwa sha Haihonya and Oshikunde Police Sub-Stations.
- Construction of ECDs at four (4) localities in Omundaungilo & Okongo constituencies.
- Construction of community halls at Ondobe and Eenhana constituencies through Constituency Development Fund.
- Progress on the construction of new clinics at Omauni is at (95%), Onanghulo (55%), Okatope

(90%) and the installation of pre-fab clinic at Ondobe (88%).

- Construction of hostel and completion of production units with panel beating and spray painting component at Eenhana Vocational Training Centre.
- Design and documentation for the Extension of Ohangwena Regional Council office has been completed
- Construction of kitchen and hostel at Shituwa Secondary School is ongoing.
- Construction of Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture Office complex is ongoing.
- Progress on the construction of the Okongo Village Council Office complex is at 90 %.
- Progress on the construction of Eembaxu Rural Development Centre is at 83%.

- Constructed a new Junior secondary school in Eenhana town (PH Muandingi JSS), which is fully functional.
- Construction of outpatient department consulting rooms and isolation unit at Engela Hospital.
- Renovated thirteen (13) classrooms and installed twenty seven (27) pre-primary equipment at various schools in the region.
- The following schools were electrified via NAMPOWER Social Development Fund: Ohehonge, Ondema, Uuhahe, and Okatale Combined Schools while Hanghome, Shaama, Otaukondjele Primary Schools and Omukukutu Combined Schools where surveyed for electrification during 2018/19 financial year.
- Eputuko Combined School connected to the main electricity grid with assistance from NAMSOV.

- Ekolola and Ekangolamulenge suburbs in Eenhana and Helao Nafidi towns respectively were electrified through NORED Social Investment Fund during the period under review.
- Construction of 2.5 km access road and portable water line at Ekolola Reception Area in Eenhana Town.
- Etomba-Omundaungilo road has been completed and inaugurated.
- Re-gravelling of 3.5km street in Ongenga Settlement with financial assistance from Road Fund Administration was successfully completed
- The surfacing of Onhuno – Okatana road to bitumen standard is progressing well and is expected to be completed in the last quarter of this financial year.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

I am concerned with the pace of implementation of Eenhana Sports Complex, which has been dragging on for too long depriving sport development in the region, especially the young people. Equally so, the delay on the resurfacing of the busy Onhuno – Eenhana road which pose danger to motorists due to aggravating potholes is disturbing. The condition of the road is likely to divert tourists from using Trans-Caprivi highway through Ohangwena region to their destinations. This might result in a loss of possible income from tourists to Ohangwena region.

Having mentioned that, the region is also planning to implement the following capital projects within the 2018/19 – 2020/21 Medium Term Expenditure Framework:

- Rehabilitation and renovation of police facilities

- Construction of housing accommodation at border post and outpost
- Upgrading and renovation of basic education facilities
- Upgrading and extension of Oshikunde Secondary School phase 2
- Construction and renovation of regional, constituency offices and homes of safety and shelter for the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare.
- Construction and upgrading of primary health clinics and centres
- Maintenance and repair of health infrastructure
- Rural electrification of schools and surrounding localities
- Construction of municipal services and infrastructure in Eenhana and Helao Nafidi Towns, Okongo Village and Omungwelope and Ongenga Settlements

- A two thousand seven hundred cubic metres (2,700 m³) reservoir and treatment plant is planned to be constructed in Eenhana to increase the supply of water in the town and surrounding villages.
- Construction of dams, traditional wells and pans for livestock drinking
- Construction of 19 KM gravel road MR120 Endola – Eembo
- Construction of 25 KM gravel road D3622 Omukukutu – Omboloka
- Construction of 86 KM gravel road DR3624 phase 2 Omundaungilo – Omboloka
- Construction of 12 KM gravel road DR3650 Epinga – Onakalunga
- Mobile Telecommunication Limited (MTC) has engaged regional stakeholders on its 100% network coverage projects, which according to the plan has fairly covered the region.

- A bypass from Onhuno to Oshikango in Helao Nafidi Town is also planned to be implemented within this financial year.
- Plans are also underway to construct a gravel road from Odjele (Okongo Constituency) via Oshifitu and Onduludiya (Oshikunde constituency) – Amwiimbi (Epembe constituency) – Onambutu (Eenhana constituency) – Onamukulo (Omulonga constituency) – Oshawapala (Endola constituency) up to Onepandaulo in Engela Constituency to link education and health facilities as well as constituency offices to national road network.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

The world has become a global village and Ohangwena region is not operating in isolation. In order to establish, share, strengthen and consolidate economic, social,

cultural, environmental and ecotourism development, the region has embraced the norm of establishing sound **International and Local Relations and Cooperation** for the common benefit of all our inhabitants.

In March 2018 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ohangwena Region and Limpopo Province of South Africa. The Parties will cooperate in the following areas:

- Sharing the know-how on agricultural, education, health and Small Medium and Micro sized Enterprise,
- Limpopo Provincial Government to assist Ohangwena Region on education; health, urban and regional planning, environment and tourism;
- Establishing cultural exchange programmes;
- Parties to conduct studies and surveys in fields of common interests; and

- Parties to identify and implement short and long term projects.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

The region is fortunate to receive support from various stakeholders and friends of education. The region received one million (N\$ 1,000,000.00) from Sanlam Namibia to renovate Haimbili Haufiku Secondary School. Furthermore, Hanns Seidel Foundation under its project called Promoting Renewable Energy in Namibia (PREN) has donated solar panels to Ondjabayonghalu and Omuuni Combined Schools. With the support from GIZ forty five (45) sports facilities were completed and handed over to 15 Cluster Centre schools in the region. We await phase 2 at 7 remaining Cluster Centre schools to commence soon.

In order to lay a strong foundation and meeting government halfway in making preprimary education accessible, the Governor donated two classrooms block and office at Usko Nghihepavali Nghaamwa Kindergarten in Ohangwena Circuit to the tune of four hundred and ninety thousand dollars (N\$490,000). The block which is currently accommodating ninety five (95) learners has been officially inaugurated and handed over to the government. I therefore wish to commend these organizations and call upon others to emulate the good example.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

In this year of reckoning, we should all strive for Ohangwena to be a hub of physical and socio-economic development and participatory governance. Let us remain

united and fight social challenges with little resources at our disposal to improve the livelihood of all our people.

As our Founding President and Father of the Nation always says “A people united, striving to achieve a common good of all members of society, will always emerge victorious”

I thank you!