



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

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

04 AUGUST 2020

10H00

BILLY MWANINGANGE RDC - EEMBAXU

- **Honorable Erickson Ndawanifa, Chairperson of the Management Committee,**
- **Honorable members of Parliament and All Regional Councillors,**
- **Your Worship the Mayors of Eenhana and Helao Nafidi Towns,**
- **The Chairperson of Okongo Village Council,**
- **Honorable Local Authority Councilors,**
- **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 Organizations,**
- **Representatives of Constituency and Settlement Development Committees,**
- **Members of the business fraternity,**
- **Spiritual leaders,**
- **Distinguished invited guests,**
- **Fellow residents of Ohangwena Region,**
- **Members of the Media,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

A very good morning to you all!

In fulfilment of Article 110B, Sub-Article 5 and 6 of the Namibian Constitution that mandates the Regional Governor to address the Regional Council on the state of the region once a year, on how the Region has performed and what to expect in terms of development in the current financial year. I stand here this morning in appreciation of this opportunity to address the Regional Council, stakeholders and the region at large.

Subsequent to my appointment by his Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob President of the Republic of Namibia, on the 7th of April 2020 and officially assuming duty on the 20th of April 2020 as the Regional Governor of Ohangwena Region, I am here to present my maiden State of the Region Address, please sail with me through this journey as we continue transforming Ohangwena Region together.

His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia, declared the year 2020 as the year of *introspection*, therefore, this year as a region we need to focus more on the evaluation and analysis of the implementation strategies of the regional development programmes and projects.

Hon. Chairperson

Hon. Councilors

Ohangwena Region spans over an area of approximately 10703 square kilometers with a population density of 23 per square kilometer. It shares borders with the Republic of Angola's Cuando Cubango and Cunene Provinces at the North, Oshikoto and Oshana Regions at the south, Kavango West Region at the East and Omusati Region at the west.

The region is the second highest populated in Namibia with 245 446 inhabitants as per the 2011 National Housing and Population Census.

The population is estimated to have grown to 255 510 according to the Namibia Inter-Censual Demographic Survey of 2016. The Region is also blessed with abundant natural resources such as fertile land, underground water and forests. This places Ohangwena region at a competitive advantage to engage in large scale agricultural activities such as horticulture, aquaculture and agroforestry.

As the region is predominantly rural, with only three local authorities, two settlements and a few growth points, the economic hardships are still being experienced. Natural calamities such as prolonged drought, floods, and diseases like Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and of recent the impact of COVID-19 pandemic that is affecting the whole world has exacerbated the declining in economic growth. COVID-19 is a serious disease affecting all of us and is spreading rapidly. In March 2020, Namibia recorded only two cases, but as we are speaking, the cases have exceeded two thousand and twelve deaths have been reported.

I therefore, urge all to take necessary health precautions as stipulated in the guidelines by the World Health Organization and declared by the Head of State, Dr. Hage G. Geingob. I encourage all to always wash your hands frequently, sanitize, wear a mask when in public and maintain a social distance of or more than 1.5 meters, avoid unnecessary gathering and travelling as well as praying for our Nation.

Hon. Chairperson,
Hon. Councilors,
Fellow Residents

Despite all these challenges, the region is relentlessly forging ahead with economic enhancement initiatives to bring about prosperity for our people. Our efforts during the period under review have been

concentrated on up-lifting the livelihoods of our people through several development programmes and projects.

Agriculture is the backbone of our economy, therefore the Government is striving to improve this sector. In an effort to increase productivity, the Government subsidized 175 communal farmers through the weeding service programme which created temporary employment opportunities to **three thousands three hundred and sixty (3360)** community members. Furthermore, a total number of 30 farmers benefitted from livestock marketing incentive subsidy mainly in Okongo Constituency to the tune of **ninety-nine thousand, one hundred and twenty Namibian dollars (N\$99 120.00)**, while 86 farmers benefitted from livestock feed subsidy to the tune of **seven hundred and sixty-three thousand, five hundred and twenty Namibia dollars (N\$763 520.00)**.

Although there has been prolonged drought, livestock auctions were held in the region, generating a total turnover amounting at **one million, five hundred and ninety-two thousand, one hundred Namibian dollars (N\$1 592 100.00)**, with a total number of 232 cattle marketed and benefitted 33 farmers. In addition, 17 new crush pens were constructed in various constituencies in the region. **Twenty-seven thousand nine hundred ninety-four (27 994)** cattle were vaccinated against Foot and Mouth Disease. (FMD). **Twenty-seven thousand nine hundred and sixteen (27916)** were vaccinated against Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP). **Six thousand and twenty-four (6024)** pets were also vaccinated against rabies.

In the quest to improve the livelihoods of rural farmers, Ohangwena Regional Council handed over **one hundred and eighty (180)** goats to thirty-six (36) beneficiaries valued at **five hundred thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$500 000.00)**, including medicine to fight stress and parasite control. The beneficiaries were trained on small livestock

farming during 2018/2019 FY and they will be monitored for a period of three (3) years.

Furthermore, a total of **Seventeen thousand, five hundred and Twenty** (17 520) fruit tree seedlings such as mango, moringa, guava and lemon were produced and distributed to private individuals, government institutions and farmers in the region, while 520 tree seedlings were distributed to **One Hundred and Eighteen** (118) households in Endola, Omulonga and Epembe constituencies through the ***Fruit Trees Planting Project***. This initiative aims at ensuring that households in the region are self-sufficient in terms of nutritional fruits for consumption and generate income from surpluses in the future.

The region also implemented the Hydroponic Irrigation Project at Okongo Community Forest and Conservancy, which created employment opportunities for 14 local people. The project was funded by the Environmental Investment Fund to the tune of **Three million, Fifty-two thousand, Nine hundred and Six Namibian Dollars and seventy-four cents** (N\$3 052 906.74).

Community-based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM), has been proven to yield desirable fruits in the sustainable management of natural resources as local communities are encouraged to manage natural resources for their own benefit, thereby assuming ownership of such natural resources. In addition to the two existing Community Forests (Okongo including the Conservancy, and Omufitu Wekuta.), 24 000 hectares of land in Omundaungilo constituency was also declared as a community forest with the support from the Sustainable Management of Namibia Forested Land (NAFOLA) Project.

**Hon. Chairperson,
Hon. Councilors,
Fellow Residents**

It is also worth mentioning that, the efforts to address youth unemployment is one of the core strategies on the region's development agenda. The Youth Enterprises that were registered in each constituency with Business Intellectual Property Authority last financial year were hired for the construction and assembling of 384 VIP Dry Pit Latrines of which 32 were constructed per constituency under the Rural Sanitation Programme, to the tune of **four million two hundred and ninety-one thousand ninety Namibian Dollars** (N4, 291, 090).

Furthermore, the recently trained ninety-four unemployed Community Health Workers were given a three (3) months contractual employment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic by the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

Another notable investment is through Rural Development Programmes such as, One Region One Initiative (OROI), Cash and Food for Work whereby an amount of **nine million five hundred sixty-three thousand and forty-nine Namibian dollars and seventy-six cents** (N\$9 563 049.76) was spent on construction of ten (10) Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers, health outreach centers, electrification of community centers, earth dam excavations, de-bushing of roads, and support to small and medium enterprises.

Integration of the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle continues to enjoy high priority of the Government expenditures, despite the current economic hardships.

During the period under review, nine Individual Veterans Projects (IVP) were approved for funding through the Social Economic Support Programme, aimed at improving the livelihoods of the War Veterans, at the cost of **One million, Eight hundred thousand Namibian Dollars (N\$1 800 000.00)**.

A total of 11 veterans received their once-off lump sum amount of N\$50 000, bringing the total to 267 beneficiaries. About 970 veterans were on Improvement Grant, of which 109 were recently approved to receive a monthly payment of N\$4000.00, while four applicants were approved to receive N\$3000.00 per month. Furthermore, 115 veterans have been approved to receive a monthly subvention of N\$2200.00 and bringing the total number of veterans on this grant to 3588.

Despite the outlined achievements, there is still a backlog of 1875 approved IVPs that are yet to be funded once the money become available.

Another achievement worth reporting is the progress on the construction of Onghwiyu monument where there is a mass grave of 15 fallen heroes who sacrificed their lives in the battle of 02 April 1989. The six-hectares plot has already been fenced off to the tune of seven hundred thousand and twenty N\$ 720 000.00.

As the President is always emphasizing that nobody should feel left out, the San communities of Ohangwena Region are also moving on the same pace as the rest of regional inhabitants. Their living standards are improving day-by-day as they are empowered through the Formerly

Marginalized Communities' Empowerment Programme for them to take charge of their own destiny.

Through the education support for San community, one **hundred and eighteen** (118) learners were enrolled at in the boarding schools at Tobias Hainyeko Combined School in Okongo constituency. These learners are transported as far as Ondobe, Eenhana, Omundaungilo, Epembe and Oshikunde constituencies.

The Division Marginalized Community continued to ensure that the San community benefited from the social grants. Ten San youth members were temporarily employed by the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) during the November 2019 Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

Furthermore, five youths from Eenhana, one from Engela and one from Okongo Constituencies respectively, were employed by the Ministry of Health and Social Services during the 2019 Malaria spray campaign. During financial year under review a total number of 59 san benefited from dignified funeral support.

However, as we engage in *introspection*, we need to go back to the drawing board to evaluate, with the aim to improve on the strategies used to integrate San communities, in order to determine whether some strategies are aligned with their interests, and are in line with their cultural beliefs and practices as the results seem to be moving on a snail's pace and less promising. For example, during the last planting season, a total of 48.1 hectares was ploughed for them at Eendobe, Ekoka, Oshanashiwa and Onamatadiva San Settlements, but the harvest was poor with a combined yield of only 0.122 tons of grains, despite a good rainfall received in the area.

In addition, farming equipment and household items were procured for the purpose of community empowerment to the tune of **One million, One hundred and Seventy-one, Nine hundred and Seven Namibian dollars and Eleven cents** (N\$1, 171 907.11). To this end,

inputs have surpassed outputs, with no to little tangible results, a lot still need to be done in this regard.

**Hon. Chairperson,
Hon. Councilors,
Fellow residents**

Land is one of the three basic factors of production, however, its availability is limited, more especially in urban areas where the population growth is exponential due to perceived existence of greener pastures. In order to meet the demand for serviced land, amidst the economic crisis, alternative strategies have been initiated to reduce the backlog.

Eenhana Town Council, through Public Private Partnerships (PPP) arrangements entered into with various developers, managed to avail over 1200 served plots, while 88 hectares of land in Okongo Village Council was demined through the Explosive Ordinance Clearance Exercise in an effort to make more land available.

In order to make land available in communal areas, a total number of **one thousand one hundred and sixteen** (1116) customary land rights, **fifteen** (15) leasehold land rights and 55 occupational land rights were approved by the Communal Land Board during the period under review. Communal land disputes are however still a challenge in the region. Some of the contributing factors are; lack of procedural land allocation by some of the Traditional Authority leaders and also illegal fencing cases that are often left unreported. Nevertheless, the Communal Land Board has been hard at work. The Board managed to successfully resolve 8 land disputes out of the 27 that were tabled.

Our region has been faced with many challenges including that of water scarcity, especially the constituencies in the eastern part of the Region where piped water is still a dream yet to come true. Boreholes which are the main water source in these areas either dried up or need to be installed or else the water is not potable due to high fluoride content. Water shortages is further aggravated by persistent drought that hit the region over the years.

To arrest the situation, two deep boreholes were drilled and installed at Oshongwe and Omalapapa in Omundaungilo and Oshikunde constituencies at the cost of five million one hundred thousand Namibian dollars (N\$ 5 100 000.00.) Another Twenty-five (25) shallow boreholes were installed in Oshikunde, Omundaungilo and Okongo constituencies at the sum of six **million seventy-four thousand eighty hundred and twenty Namibia dollars** (N\$ 6 074 820).

One thousand eight hundred and seventeen (1817) individual household water meters were connected to rural water supply water pipeline system in the period under review.

The government has also excavated an earth dam at Oshifitu in Oshikunde Constituency at a cost of **six hundred and seventy thousand Namibian dollars** (N\$ 670 000.00) and seventeen (17) short kilometre water pipelines are under construction at a total amount of **three million four hundred and seventy-five thousand and three hundred eighty-six Namibian dollars.** (N\$ 3 475 386.25.)

In an effort to ensure that all residents have access to potable water, 810 000 cubic meters of water was delivered with water tanks to the most affected communities in Omundaungilo, Oshikunde and Epembe constituencies. A water storage reservoir with a capacity on 5000 cubic has been constructed by Namwater in Eenhana town to the tune of twenty-three million nine hundred and fifty-one thousand Namibian

dollars (N\$ 23 951 000.00). Upgrading of Indangungu water storage, Omafo - Eenhana extensions, Non-revenue Water Cuvelai (Assessing water lost in the system), Upgrading of Omafo - Omungwelume and Omakango - Onambutu schemes are underway.

Hon. Chairperson,

Hon. Councilors,

Fellow residents

The importance of health sector in society cannot be overemphasized, as the say goes “a heathy nation is a productive nation”. The region therefore continues to fight against challenging diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and of the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

Our efforts to fight these diseases are not in vain as we have recorded positive successes, especially with prevention measures. HIV/AIDS and TB awareness campaigns, enforcement of mother to child HIV/AIDS Transmission Prevention Measures and Male Circumcision yielded commendable results. During the reporting period, about 99% of babies born to HIV positive mothers tested HIV negative, while a total of 4709 males were circumcised an increase of about 1.5% compared to the previous year’s figures.

Just before the end of the Financial Year, the country and the rest of the world has been hit by the deadly Corona Virus / Covid-19, thereby diverting much of the medical attention towards curbing further spread of the virus as well as preparedness in case of an outbreak. Several measures have been put in place in this regard, including identification

and equipping of Isolation facilities, information-sharing, distribution of face masks and recruitment of more medical personnel. All the vacant positions for Medical Officers were filled in the reporting period.

We have also resumed to perform postmortem services in the region and stopped sending the bodies to Rundu and Oshakati for postmortem services. Eenhana District Hospital theatre has also been activated and is fully functioning. Engela District Hospital has introduced medical outreach services to all clinics in the District, in an effort to decongest the Outpatient Department in the Hospital.

Hon. Chairperson,

Hon. Councilors

Infrastructure development and maintenance is one of the signs of positive growth of any given economy. Therefore, the region spent a big chunk of capital budget to invest in construction of new infrastructure and maintenance of the existing ones. In this regard, most of our stakeholders and development partners have been hard at work developing and maintaining public infrastructure in the region.

Helao Nafidi Town Council had two Developmental Capital projects for 2019/2020 one of which Engela-Omafo extension 1 and 2 Electrical reticulation, where by total of 527 plots were serviced with electricity in two extensions to the tune of **eighteen million twenty-one thousand seven hundred and twenty-four Namibian dollars** (N\$ 18 021 724)

The construction of a 3.8 km gravel roads in Oshikango extension 7 and Onunho extension 8 that were fully completed at the cost of **one million eighty hundred seven six thousand three hundred eighty- two Namibian dollars** (N\$ 1 876 382.)

Okongo Village Council has completed the construction of municipal services (water and sewer reticulation) in Extension 1. The Planning and

Cadastral Surveying of 417 erven at a Reception Area has been done in an effort to avail land for housing, institutional and business developments. Re-gravelling of streets for Okongo Proper, Extension 1 and Block 103 was also completed.

Re-gravelling of a 5km streets in Ongenga settlement at the cost of **eight hundred eighty-five thousand four hundred and forty-eight Namibian dollars.** (N\$ 885 448.25) has been completed.

The Construction of Access Roads to Tuyoleni, Onambwebwe, and Engungumano Combined Schools and clinics in Engela and Endola constituencies at the cost of fifty-seven million sixty hundred and eighty-six thousand seven hundred and twenty-two Namibian dollars. (N\$ 57 686 7220) is underway.

Construction of medium voltage, low voltage reticulation and street lighting in Ongenga and Omungwelume settlements for an amount of **three million three hundred twenty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-two Namibian dollars** (N\$ 3 329 152.00) has been completed. Construction of expo open stands and fencing off of Oshikunde Multi-Purpose Youth Project has been completed to an amount of **three hundred and forty-one thousand four hundred and ninety-eight Namibian dollars** (N\$ 341 498.00.)

One hundred and eighty-four (184) plots at reception area for Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia in Okongo were electrified by NORED at the cost of **two million and thirty thousand Namibian dollars.** (N\$ 2 030 000.00) NORED also contributed a sum of **twenty thousand** (20 000.00) towards the Regional Education Development Fund that was utilized for improvement of a girls' hostel at Omulunga CS in Epembe circuit.

During the financial year under review, **three hundred and eighty-four** households benefitted from the Rural Sanitation Programme to the tune of **four million, two hundred and ninety-one, and ninety Namibian dollars** (N\$ 4 291 090.00). Rural electrification of public infrastructure at Helao Nafidi CS, Ewanifo CS, Onduludiya CS, Omukukutu CS, Otaukondjele PS, Shaama CS and Hanghome PS has been completed, while electrification of Oshikuni PS, Onehoni PS, Limbandungila CS, Oshimbumba PS, Nanhapo PS and Kambala PS is still in progress. Endola police station and Eenhana barracks where by male and female quarters are under construction at Eenhana while at Endola the male quarters are under way as well. Ongha police station is expected to be completed by August 2022.

Thirteen (13) fully furnished pre-primary classrooms at the following schools were constructed through the 11th European Union funding at the tune of **five million one hundred and nine two thousand one hundred and sixty-nine Namibian dollars** (N\$ 5 192.169).

The schools are: Nghifilenga JP, Omushiyo PS, Nakapandi JP, Ohenghono JP, Mawila JP, Nghifikwa Ndailikana JP, Ndjukuma PS, Hafyenanye PS, Loide Nadunya PS, Eshakeno PS, Emilia Shimweefeleni, Veikko Nekundi JP and Otaukondjele PS.

Four classrooms were constructed at Egambo Combined School through the Japanese Embassy funding to the tune of **one million nine two thousand Namibian dollars** (N\$ 1 092 000.00), while the African Development Bank funded the upgrading and renovation of Ongha Senior Secondary School at the cost of **fourteen million nine hundred seventy-one thousand three hundred and eight Namibian dollars** (N\$ 14 971 308.00) The work is expected to be completed by end of September 2020.

In addition, construction of a new hostel at Omungwelume Secondary School, an initiative by the former Governor Honorable Usko Nghaamwa

is about to be completed to the tune of seven million one hundred and ninety-eight thousand Namibia Dollars. (N\$ 7, 189, 000).

Community hostels at Onambutu Combined School, Ondobe Secondary School and Oupili Combined School are under construction through COVID-19 Funds. The Construction of Early Childhood Development Centres at Omundaungilo, Udeiko Haufiku, Omutaku, Ombaba, Shimbango, Nasheya, Tuwilika and Eeshowa, at the tune of **Five million two hundred and fifty thousand** (N\$ 5 250 000.00) are underway.

Epembe Vision School will be pursued to its logical conclusion in 2020/2021 and 2022 Financial Year. Once realized the school will be a fully-fledged School offering all specialized courses.

The Construction of new accommodation and kitchen facilities at Billy Mwaningange Rural Development Centre for an amount of **forty-four million two hundred and twenty-nine thousand one hundred and seventeen Namibian dollars** (N\$ 44 229 117.31) is currently underway.

Construction of new clinics and accommodation at Onamafila and Onanghulo are expected to be completed by June 2021 at the cost of **Seventeen million, Six hundred and Seventy-one, Three hundred and Sixty-eight Namibian dollars** (17 671 368.00), and Sixteen million, Two hundred and Twenty-seven thousand Namibian dollars (16 227 000.00) respectively. However, slow progress has been recently observed at Onanghulo clinic which requires the intervention of all stakeholder. Ohaukelo pre-fabricated clinic is under construction for an amount of **three million, One hundred and Sixty-nine thousand, Six hundred and Eighty-four Namibian dollars** (N\$3 169 684.00).

Construction of physio-therapy and renovations of dental and ophthalmology consulting rooms at Engela Hospital has been completed to the tune of **One million, Six hundred and Forty-six thousand, One hundred and Sixty-nine Namibia dollars** (N\$ 1 646 169.00). Construction of pre-fab container for isolation of COVID-19 patients and other infectious diseases at Oshikango border post, as well as a newly eight bed capacity pre-fabricated isolation units at Okongo District Hospital have also been completed.

Phase one (1) of MTC 081 everyone which entails the installation of network towers at Ehafo, Omundudu, Ohaukelo, Oshaango, Omboloka and Onhinda villages were completed. MTC has also managed to capacitate network towers at Eenhana, Okongo NDC, Okahenge and Oshuuli and are fully functional. Phase two has also commenced which includes; construction of network towers at Onepandaulo, Onamunama, Otunganga, Eembaxu, Uushake, Twaalulilwa PS, Elao PS, Ondjadjaxwi and Onamahoka villages and schools.

Hon. Chairperson,

Hon. Councillors,

Road network is an enabler to accelerate economic advancement and access to basic services such as health and education. The following roads were submitted to the Ohangwena Roads Board for proclamation.

- ❑ Oshidute – Onduludia - Omuhongo
- ❑ Onandova – Epoli – Onamahoka - - Oshatotwa – Oshimhumu – Onangwe – Oshali – Ohaukelo – Ehoma – Onambutu – Amwiimbi – Odjele ***this road will cover Eenhana - Oshikunde – Epembe – Okongo Constituencies and it will connect Government Facilities.***
- ❑ Oshuuli – Omulondo (12 km)
- ❑ Onehanga – Olukula – Ombabi

The following roads are earmarked for graveling but not in order of priority.

- DR3650 Epinga – Onakalunga (12km)*
- DR3665 Okakwa – Oshawapala – Endola
- DR3620 Oupili –Oshifitu – Onkumbula (40 km)
- DR3679 Enyana – Olukula (47.7 km)
- DR Okongo – Oshiti shaHaihonya – King Kauluma
- DR3624 Phase 2 Omundaungilo – Omboloka (86 km) – (Olupale Phase 3)
- Dr3622 Omukukutu - Ohameva–Oluwaya - Omboloka (25 km)
- DR3669 Onangolo – Onhinda
- DR3504 Oshaango – Uukango via Epembe – Omuhongo
- DR3632 Okongo – Epembe (Onduludia /Omahahi)
- DR4113 Eembo – Endola

The following roads are earmarked for upgrading to bitumen Standard but not in order of priority.

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

There are many roads both short and long distances but in most cases the funds secured from development partners come their restricted funding

criteria and priorities. This sometimes make it very difficult for Regional priorities to be realized as planned.

**Hon. Chairperson,
Hon. Councilors**

Despite efforts by the Safety and Security to curb crimes, the Region has recorded 4038 cases in 2019/2020 Financial Year:

- Rape Cases stands at 161 an increase of 20% from 134 cases of the previous year.
- Assault Cases 1321 an increase of 7% from 1238 cases
- Domestic Violence Cases at 65, a decrease of 4% from 68 cases
- Murder Cases at 24, a decrease of 35% from 37 cases

The Region is experiencing challenges with assault with Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), robbery, rape, motor vehicle theft, house breaking and theft.

Despite the achievements highlighted earlier, Ohangwena region has been hampered by numerous challenges, which comprises of;

- Unemployment especially among youth,
- The effects of COVID-19 in recent times which has negatively impacted the economy and service delivery,
- limited resources and reduction in the regional budget allocation.
- Poor coordination in the implementation of government projects and programmes between Sector Ministries and Regional Council i.e. incomplete and prolonged capital projects such as Eenhana Sport Stadium as well as teacher's accommodation across the region.
- Slow pace on the full exploration of Ohangwena Aquifer II
- Lack of access to funding for SMEs

It is worrying to report that the region is still experiencing a shortage of infrastructure such as ablution facilities, hostel accommodation, permanent classrooms, school laboratories and libraries, as well as lack of isolation facility in Eenhana District Hospital. More disturbing, is delay in the completion of some Capital Projects in the Region, The construction of Education Directorate Regional Office and the Regional Office for the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform and the Eenhana Sports Complex, to mention, but a few.

Hon. Chairperson,
Hon. Councilors

On the 20th May 2020 I unveiled the Strategic Developmental Roadmap Framework which will serve as the blue print to direct the programmes and activities of the Region. The document has been crafted based on the High – Level Government Policy Document such as, Namibia’s 5th National Development Plan (NDP5), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Vision 2030, the Harambee Prosperity Plan, and the Ohangwena Regional Council Strategic Plan for 2017/2018-2021/2022 respectively.

I will then highlight some of the strategic focus areas of the Roadmap which includes; industrialization, Urban Development, Employment Creation, Youth Enterprise Development, Food Production and Security, Water Infrastructures, Roads infrastructures.

Economic development and industrialization has a potential for commercializing agricultural activities in the Region, including aquaculture productions, agro-forestry among others.

Urban Development Our Local Authorities are currently serious shortage in terms of serviced land. Hence, the efforts are underway to

work closely with our Local Authorities to mobilize resources in order to fast track land delivery.

Employment Creation through industrialization, agriculture and tourism development, local employment can be created. However, there should also be deliberate interventions aimed at ensuring that the employment created is equally sustainable. Hence, one way of doing this, is streamlining of the procurement processes at all public entities in the Region;

- Firstly, to ensure that specific tenders are reserved for the local entrepreneurs; and Tender Specifications and requirements are in tandem with capabilities of local entrepreneurs
- Secondly to ensure that where manpower and unskilled work is required in the execution of a particular project in region, priority is given to the locals.

Youth Enterprise Development, I strongly believe that the Youth are the present and future leaders, therefore they must have shares in the means of production, such as owning land and capital amongst others things. This will therefore enable the youth to express their innovative ideas and facilitate for them to create commercial value out of their ideas. In addition, we will work on modalities to ensure that specific Projects are reserved for the youth entrepreneurs; and that specific Tender Specifications and requirements are in line with capabilities of local youth for e.g. the construction of VIP pit latrine across the Region

Food Production and Security

Agricultural development in the region will be realized through either seasonal rain or water from aquifers or other source is one high competitive advantage for the Ohangwena Region, given its natural

vegetation and landscape to ensure food production and security by engaging in some of the following strategic activities:

- Creating and digging of new earth dams and Rehabilitation of existing earth dams to harvest rainwater for irrigation and livestock.
- As highlighted in the Roadmap efforts are at an advanced stage to mobilize additional resources to strengthen and revive the existing projects such as Onehanga and Embwanyana Youth Agriculture Projects, San People Projects in the region especially in the Okongo Constituency (Ekoka, Oshandi, Onamatadiva, Oshanashiwa, Eendobe and Onakalunga).
- Promote innovation in the business of Processing of local and indigenous food products into marketable and storable forms.

**Hon. Chairperson,
Hon. Councilors**

International and Intra-Regional Co-operation guided by the Namibia's Policy on International Relations and Cooperation, as highlighted in the Strategic and Developmental Roadmap Framework we will engage foreign and diplomatic missions represented in Namibia as well as our Missions abroad to identify Regions and Provinces for us to enter into smart partnerships for the mutual benefits of our people.

In this regard, the Region has signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Limpopo provincial Government of the Republic of South Africa, Cuando-Cubango and Cunene Provinces in Angola. We also appreciate the fact that the Ministry of International Relations and

Cooperation has allocated Ohangwena Region to the Namibian Embassies in Ghana and Austria with primary objective to mobilize resources for developmental purposes.

We will further explore the possibilities of signing intra-regional agreements with other Regions for cross fertilization of ideas and sharing of best practices and addressing common challenges confronting our respective Regions. In this regard, we have gone a step further by concluding the Memorandum of Understanding with Kavango West and Oshikoto Regional Councils. The MOU is focusing on the following areas Agriculture, Health, Education, Water and general service delivery, particularly on the communities that are living alongside the respective Regional boundaries.

Water Infrastructures Ohangwena Water Master Plan has been crafted and will be launched very soon, the document aims to highlight strategies on how to extend and reticulate the bulk piped water to the eastern part of the Region. This project is envisaged to tap and purify water from the Ohangwena Aquifer II. Once realized the project will relieve the water scarcities experienced over the years and will ensure that the region is water reliant and equally aid our industrialization efforts as far as the agricultural sector is concerned.

The regional population of Ohangwena (majority of which are young people), serves as a sensible justification for the establishment of higher Institutions in the region.

Therefore, relevant stakeholders in this regard will be engaged tirelessly to ensure that this becomes a reality.

Hon. Chairperson,
Hon. Councilors

In conclusion, as we are in this year of introspection I urge all of us to rededicate our efforts towards evaluation and re-alignment of our implementation strategies to ensure inclusivity in our development.

Therefore, let us all be **UNITED FOR A GREENER AND BETTER OHANGWENA, I thank you.**

