



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT

BY

HON. ERGINUS ENDJALA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS

13 JULY 2022

OUTAPI

OMUSATI REGION

**Honourable Cde. Andreas Shintama, Chairperson of Omusati Regional Council
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors
Your Worship Cde. Selma Nelago Asino, Mayor of Outapi Town and other
Mayors present
Tatekulu Oswin Shifiona Mukulu, Chief of Ombalantu Traditional Authority
Tatekulu Johannes Mupiya Japhet, King of Ongandjera Traditional Authority
Tatekulu Shikongo Taapopi, King of Uukwaluudhi Traditional Authority
Tatekulu Herman Iipumbu, Chief of Uukwambi Traditional Authority
Tatekulu Daniel Shooya, Chief of Uukolonkadhi Traditional Authority
Tatekulu Matias Walaula, Chief of Ombandja Traditional Authority
Mr. Gervasius Kashindi, Chief Regional Officer of Omusati Regional Council
Commissioner Titus Shikongo, Regional Commander of the Namibian Police
Heads of the Government Institutions
Captains of Industries
Spiritual Leaders
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my distinct honour and privilege to be accorded this opportunity to address the Regional Council today, Wednesday, 13th July 2022. This is my duty in line with the Article 110A, Sub-article 5 and 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia which requires the Regional Governor to attend a Meeting of the Regional Council of the Region once every year after the President address Parliament in terms of Article 32 Sub-Article 2 during which the Regional Governor shall address the Regional Council on the State of the Region, planned activities of the Central Government in the Region, report on the activities of the central Government of the previous year in the region and be available to respond to questions”.

At the outset, I would like to draw the attention of the August House to the fact that the Covid-19 pandemic has negatively affected the performance of the national economy and productivity of the Country. There is notable decline in the infection rate and fatalities due to Covid-19. Yet, we are not yet out of woods. I therefore urge our people to observe established health protocols and get vaccinated. Vaccination will accelerate the recovery of the national economy. Globally, economic output is projected to grow by 4.0 percent in 2022 and 3.5 percent in 2023, respectively. This points at an inception of economic recovery going into the future.

Let me seize this opportunity to thank the Government of the Republic of Namibia, particularly His Excellency Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic Namibia for his steadfast leadership during the turbulent economic and social circumstances posed by Covid-19 outbreak. My appreciation also goes to members of public for their compliance with established health protocols which has enabled the Government to weather the storm of the pandemic.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

Allow me at this juncture to share with this August House the activities which were carried out in our Region during the 2021/2022 Financial Year. As far as the development of infrastructure is concerned, an amount of N\$450,075.53 was spent on the Constituency Identified Projects to purchase materials for short water pipelines in various constituencies.

To address the challenge of sewer overflows, an amount of N\$1,066,792.33 was spent to reroute a sewer line from Onesi Secondary School pump station to Onesi Settlement pump station and construct a sewer reticulation at Erf 116. And, three oxidation ponds were constructed to a tune of N\$4,222,561.40.

In Okalongo Settlement, an amount of N\$214,257.14 was spent on repairing broken and raising manholes in low laying areas, an assessment of freshwater intrusion on sewer water was carried out at a cost of N\$211,940.14, while a sewer pump station was constructed at Extension 1 for an amount of N\$1,291,064.76. In addition, an amount of N\$563,068.68 was spent on construction of sewer reticulation infrastructure in Extension 1 and N\$927,988.87 was spent to fence off the additional evaporation ponds.

Regarding electrification of growth points, an amount of N\$1,782 517,55 was spent on electrification of Okatonyo in Etayi Constituency, Okatunhu in Outapi Constituency and Oshetu in Onesi Constituency.

In Outapi Town, the Council has constructed a water reticulation at Outapi Extension 13 to the tune of N\$989,098.44. An amount of N\$5,843,733.77 was invested in the construction of sewer gravity network at Extensions 8 (Phase 1 and 2) 12 and 15. In Oshikuku Town, an amount of N\$2,393,093.65 was spent on sewer lines at Extension 5 and N\$1,181 956.18 on construction of water infrastructure at Extension 9. An amount of N\$2,813,336 was spent by Tsandi Village Council on Land Surveying of Extension 10 and 11, maintenance of gravel roads at Extension 1 (RFA), Design and documentation of oxidation Treatment plant (phase 1) and construction of Tsandi Open Market (Phase 2)

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

Omusati Region has 296 schools, out of which 276 are the State schools and 20 are private schools. The learners' enrolment at the State schools stands at 103,224, while at private schools is at 2,942 learners. The total number of teachers stands at 3,593. However, as per post provision norms of the State schools, required number of teachers should be 3,834 and hence the shortage of 241 teachers overall.

There are 17 schools with hostels facilities with capacity to accommodate 8,414 hostel boarders. However, its capacity can only accommodate 10,417 due to high demand.

During the 2021 academic year, there were 38 schools which offered the Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Ordinary (NSSCO) Curriculum with a total number of 5901 learners. An average of 18% of learners who wrote the NSSCO examination qualified to advance to the Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Advanced Subsidiary (NSSCAS). Canisianum RC High School and Onawa Secondary School performed well qualifying 96% and 77% of their learners respectively. Learners who qualified to advance from NSSCO to NSSCAS in Omusati has increased from 517 in 2020 to 1079 in 2021, which is 52.1%.

Education is the key to economic development and social progression. Hence, the Government continues to greatly invest in this sector. To promote nutrition and schooling among children from vulnerable communities, the Government has invested in the School Feeding Programme (NSFP). Under the programme, N\$6,830,766.02 was spent on maize blended meals to cater for 66,344 school learners from pre-primary to Grade 7. At the government school hostels, an amount of N\$61,174,496.47 was spent to cater for 10,417 hostel boarders. Government schools were also provided with the Education Grant known as UPE and USE to a tune of N\$22,996,291.01. An amount of N\$12,754,303.00 was spent on textbooks, stationery and subsidies to state-aided private and community hostels.

Regarding the education and school infrastructure, twenty-two small ablution facilities were constructed at a cost of N\$7,904,609.85, N\$4,812,398.07 was spent on to renovate of 19 pit latrines into ablution facilities, 9 large ablution blocks with showers were constructed to the tune of N\$5,501,230.31, while N\$8,870,847.24 was spent on the construction of 18 hostel blocks. A 160 mm drainage pipe at Mwaala High School was replaced at the cost of N\$189,346.36, while 11 ablution facilities for administration, classes, boys and girls hostels and kitchen at Shaanika Nashilongo SS, Niilo Taapopi SS, Shikongo Iipingi SS and Nuuyoma SS were renovated at a of cost and N\$4,451,243.96. Whereas, an amount of N\$2,069,601.10 was spent to complete projects which were abandoned projects at Uahekua Herunga PS, St Charles Lwanga SS, Olyaasiti PS, Moses Aihalu CS and at Onamatanga PS.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

The Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Transformation and Expansion Implementation Strategy Projects at Nakayale Vocational Training Centre progressing well.

This project is financed by the Namibia Training Authority's Key Priority Grants under the National Training Fund (VET Levy) and the European Union (EU), through its implementation partner, the Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The generous support received via the Bilateral Agreement saw the investment of N\$31,540,329.43 in the construction of infrastructure like building technology and general electrical workshops, ablution block, 3 classrooms block with a resources centre, pump station, leading roads (gravel), water reservoir, gate and guardhouse, temporary fencing, and road works. Additional resources were availed for construction of workshop – electronics and information and communications technology, two blocks – female hostels and upgrading of equipment. The construction status of the said facilities ranges between 85 - 95 percent. I am looking forward to making Nakayale Vocational Training Centre a Vocational Centre of Excellence in Omusati Region.

Surely, the completion of the said projects will enable Nakayale Vocational Training Centre to expand its vocational training programmes and offer additional national qualifications such as:

- National Vocational Diploma in Electrical Engineering NQF 5**
- National Vocational Certificate and Diploma in ICT NQF Level 4 - 5**
- National Vocational Certificate and Diploma in Transport, Operations and Logistics NQF L2-5**
- National Vocational Certificate in Road Construction Heavy Plant Operator L3**
- National Vocational Certificate in Electronics NQF L2-4**
- National certificate in Metal Fabrication NQF L1-4**

It is expected that intended activities will provide access to TVET to a total of 1120 trainees and create jobs for 55 Namibians by the Financial Year 2022/2023.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

As far as food security is concerned, the University of Namibia (UNAM) Ogongo Campus continues to invest in rice cultivation. This initiative seeks to improve food security and serve as income generating source for small-scale farmers in the Region. Despite delayed rainfall, some farmers have managed to cultivate rice in their fields' seasonal wetlands (iishana), specifically at CLG Limbandungila Project in Omindamba Village and individual farmers at Epalela in Onesi Constituency. Rice was also cultivated at Ombafi, Okeeke and Onamudindi Villages in Ogongo Constituency. With the assistance and mentorship by UNAM Rice Project Team local farmers yielded a good harvest. To further educate and train more farmers, high school learners and community at large, UNAM Ogongo Campus hosted its Annual Rice Harvest Festival in 2022.

Contributions by donor agencies and development partners towards regional development cannot go unnoticed. The Climate Development and Knowledge Network (CDKN) has provided financial assistance to the tune of N\$21,000.00 for establishment and construction of a poultry unit for the Ondongona community at Omahenene Village. In addition, an amount of N\$20,000 was spent on acquisition of a marula oil processing machine for the San and Uukolonkadhi community at Okasheshete Village.

The Climate Adaptation and Resilience project (CLARE) has conducted a training on climate resilience and adaptation pathways and mainstreaming climate action in rural development projects in Onesi, Okahao and Otamanzi Constituencies. The Constituency Development Committees of these Constituencies were also trained in Self-Help Project and response to calls for proposals, while the Regional Councillors for the said Constituencies were trained in developing climate resilient development pathways.

Pertaining to construction of sanitation facilities in rural areas, the Regional Council has budgeted an amount of N\$1,154,000.00 for the construction of dry pit toilets for the handicapped, the elderly and households headed by orphans and vulnerable children, including at old age pay points. Thus, 75 sanitation facilities were constructed at various sites within the Region and the project is ongoing.

Water is life! An amount of N\$1,300,000.00 was invested in drilling of Onamatanga and Okaonde Boreholes and upgrading of Olwaadhiya Traditional Well. The drilling of Onamatanga and Okaonde Boreholes was completed at a cost of N\$298,019.05 and N\$305,678.99, respectively. An amount of N\$71,730.00 was used to clear a 14km cutline for the water pipeline to community and public institutions in Onamatanga of Ruacana Constituency.

On a large scale, Namwater has invested an amount of N\$259,500,000.00 in the following projects: a new pump station upgrade at Okahao to increase water supply capacity and construction of Okahao reservoir relining to replace floating cover and wall liners to prolong lifetime of existing reservoir by another 15 years. The projects are expected to be completed during the 2024/2025 Financial Year. These also include the construction of Ogongo purification upgrade to replace the flocculator dosing pump, automatic raw water pumps and reinstating the original design capacity to improve water quality and improve service efficiency. The project is planned for completion during the 2023/2024 Financial Year.

To ensure water security supply, the rehabilitation of Calueque, Epalela canal sections has commenced and is ongoing. The Research Phase 1 for supplying of raw water to farmers around Olushandja Dam Project is expected to be completed during the 2027/2028 Financial Year.

The upgrade of Olushandja Treatment Plant and extension of existing two plants or replacement of existing plants with new plant to increase clean water storage capacity will be completed during the 2025/2026 Financial Year. While the construction of 5000 m³ reservoir of Outapi storage extension to increase clean water storage capacity is completed.

Further, Namwater has budgeted an amount of N\$25,000,000.00 to complete construction of 10,000 m³ reservoir of Tsandi storage extension to clean water storage and it is expected to be completed during the 2026/2027 Financial Year. Ogongo purification plant was upgraded to full automation plant control, chlorine dosing system, sud-floc dosing system. And, the original design capacity was reinstated to improve water quality and improve service efficiency. The project will be completed during the 2022/2023 Financial Year, while N\$110,000 000 is earmarked for Ruacana South Phase 1, to provide water via Omakange up to Opuwo. The Project Feasibility Study and Design have already been completed.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

As part of Okalongo Settlement upgrading, Nored is doing giant strides in improving electricity supply to Okalongo Settlement. An amount of N\$3,000,000.00 is earmarked for the construction of Okalongo 33/11 kV – 2.5 MVA Substation during the 2022/2023 Financial Year for which the land has been secured. The construction of a substation will assure reliable bulk supply of electricity to the Settlement.

In respect of upgrading Okalongo Settlement into the local authority, the Regional Governor is pleased to report to this August House that the process is at an advanced stage. The Regional Council on the advice of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development has resolved the renaming of Okalongo Settlement to Onandjaba Village Council and the status of the local authority to a Village Council for it to continue to benefit from the government subsidy towards development of infrastructure and service delivery. The announcement will be made soonest. I therefore call upon the residents of Okalongo Settlement and all stakeholders to cooperate and support the authority to ensure the successful finalisation of the transition from the settlement area to the local authority with its associated benefits.

Likewise, an amount of N\$2,115,000.00 was spent on the below narrated operational and capital projects:

- Rerouting of 33 kV overhead networks in Okahao Town encroaching in plots**
- Debushing of MV networks**
- Fencing of 11 kV Mini-Substations in the Region**

- **Rerouting 11 kV Overhead line feeding Ruacana Town, passing through the river**
- **Installation of Olupaka 33 kV Recloser**
- **Rehabilitation of 33 kV/11 kV,0.5 MVA Etilyasa Bulk Supply Substation**
- **Rehabilitation of 33 kV/11 kV,0.5 MVA Onesi Bulk Supply**

Following the crop prospects and food security situation in the Region in 2021, the western part of Omusati Region was declared drought stricken. Thus, the Office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with Regional Council and Traditional Authorities has provided drought relief food to needy households in the affected areas. The programme has benefited 15,620 households. Under the programme 68,072 bags of mahangu grains, 122,423 bottles of cooking oil, 418,115 tinned fish, 71,630 bags of soya mince and 57,485 bags of maize meal were distributed to beneficiaries. In addition, 2,082 bags of 20 kg mahangu grains, 7,839 bottles of 750 ml cooking oil and 24,348 of 400 g tinned fish were received and distributed to intended beneficiaries.

During the period under review, Omusati Region has witnessed the arrival of the Angolan migrants who were displaced by successive droughts in their home country. In the spirit of good neighbourliness, the Government of Namibia has provided 4,054 bags of 12,5 kg maize meal, 4,056 bottles of 750 ml cooking oil and 6,824 of 400 g tinned fish to the Angolan migrants who were camping on the premises of ELCIN at Etunda of Ruacana Constituency. I would therefore like to thank all the people of good will who have extended their helping hands to our Angolan compatriots while camping at Etunda.

As an effort to contribute towards job creation, the Office of the Governor of Omusati Region has sponsored N\$154,068.00 towards different youth groups to start income generating projects such as poultry and gardening projects, helping people living with disabilities and financial assistance to needy students to further their studies and sports activities to mention but a few.

As part of its social responsibility, Nored has awarded a bursary to a student studied for Finance and Accounting at Namibia University of Science and Technology worth N\$89,139.93 and awarded N\$72,000.00 to 8 students attached at Outapi, Okahao and Oshikuku Centres for 6 months intervals. In addition, Nored funded streetlights consumption of 125 kilowatts in the Region at a cost of N\$349,776.49.

The Social Security Commission has awarded 39 bursaries and 7 study loans for 2022. Additionally, an amount of N\$2,434,166.34 was spent on 30 trainees who were studying towards the National Vocational Certificate in Horticulture and Crop Husbandry at DAPP. The Social Security Commission and Rossing Foundation supported the gardening project in Oshikuku to a tune of N\$948,266.00.

In the area of food security, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform has distributed 52.5 tons of pearl millet, sorghum, cow pea to 3 127 beneficiaries. The storage facilities were also provided to 60 farmers at the cost of N\$100,000. Similarly, 20 farmers benefitted from the provision of small stock (goats). Under the Dry Land Cropping Programme, 1 690 farmers have benefited from ploughing services, 127 community members benefited from weeding services, while 83 farmers received planting services at the cost of N\$550,000.00. In addition, 408 farmers have benefitted from the National Horticulture Support Programme to a tune of N\$1,095,458.56. As part of the Mechanization Programme, 75 job see drillers, and 90 hands operated weeding cultivators, 100 hand operated seedling trans planters, 230 knapsack sprayers and 2 animal weighing scales were received in the region.

As far as aquaculture is concerned, 46 registered farmers were provided with fingerlings and extension and advisory services, while 315,484 fingerlings (babe fish tilapia and catfish) were produced and distributed or stocked to Small Scale Fish Farmers (SSFF) and Epalela Fish Farm. A total number of 22.84 of tons of fish were harvested.

Etunda Green Scheme continues to be the source of aspiration to enhance food security and create employment through value addition initiative such as Asparagus processing plant in Ruacana Town.

Grazing pasture and protection of flora and fauna is the citizens' responsibility. A total number of 17 cases of veld fire were reported and extinguished by the Forestry Officials, the Namibian Police, the Namibian Defence Force, and surrounding communities. Sadly, loss of livestock and destruction grazing land were recorded.

In an effort of fighting deforestation and mitigating the impact of climate change, 12,542 seedlings were produced, whereby 100 seedlings planted and 9,207 seedlings were sold at a value of N\$85,614.00. The Arbor Day was celebrated at Ananias Emvula Junior Secondary School in Okahao constituency where 250 seedlings were donated to surrounding schools and communities.

I applaud the Law Enforcement Agencies for continuously conducting patrols and raising awareness about the importance of preserving natural resources. Consequently, an amount of N\$30,510.00 was generated through auctioning of confiscated poles and other forestry products, while fines to culprits involved in illegal harvesting of forestry products has generated an amount of N\$9,500.00.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

On the health front, a fully functional prefabricated isolation unit with 12 beds was constructed at Okahao District Hospital in response to Covid-19 pandemic at the cost of N\$6,094,445.70. The project was completed on 03 September 2021. An amount of N\$19,366,041.04 was allocated for the construction of Oshikulufitu New Clinic and staff accommodation. The project was delayed due to Covid-19 lockdowns and it is ongoing.

The Ministry of Health is undertaking preventative measures for communicable diseases in the Region. Hence, 23 suspected cases of measles were investigated since April 2022. Of these suspected cases, 14 cases were recorded at Outapi District, 8 at Tsandi District and 1 at Okahao District. Further, 4 confirmed cases were recorded at Jerry Ekandjo School which is located near Namibia/Angola borders. Also, 1 positive and 1 classified as compatible were recorded at Omakange Village in Tsandi District. An outbreak of measles was declared in Outapi District on 1 June 2022, and all Districts reactivated their Emergency Response Committees and started with social mobilization and health education. A mass immunization campaign was launched on 27 June 2022 in all villages within Omusati Region.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

The crime rate in the Region is fluctuating with assault, fraud and break-in cases on an alarming increase. A recurrence of stock theft, mostly goats, donkeys and cattle and rape cases has been observed. Also, steep increase in cases of shoplifting incidents was recorded by local retailers.

During the period under review a total number of 254 cases of domestic violence were reported as opposed to 247 cases reported in the previous year. This translates into a slight increase of 3 percent of violence. However, 16 percent of rape cases were recorded, as only 71 cases were documented as compared to 85 cases previously reported.

On the contrary, this the Region has recorded an increase of 36 percent in murder cases where 39 murders were committed, as opposed to 25 cases of murder registered during the previous period. For unnatural deaths, a total number of 111 cases were recorded, out of which 70 cases of suicides were committed by hanging, while 41 were drownings. To address the said anomalies, the Regional Suicide and Gender Based Violence Committee and Omusati Security Contemporary Taskforce were established.

The Region has also recorded a significant increase in inmate population due to high crime committed. The increasing number of *in-awaiting-trial-prisoners'* population caused persistent overcrowding in holding cells. The situation was further aggravated by Outapi Police Station holding cells which were declared uninhabitable.

On the overall, crime rate has slightly decreased during the period under report with 13 percent, as only 4079 crimes were reported as compared to 4686 crimes reported during the previous period.

To date, there are 480 in-awaiting-trial-prisoners in the holding cells in the Region. Yet the carrying capacity of the holding cells is 309. It is therefore a matter of serious concern that the carrying capacity of holding cells is exceeded by 171 inmates, which translating to 1.7 percent increase.

The border policing area of Omusati Region covers approximately 162 km alongside the international borders between Namibia and Angola. There are three gazetted border entry posts at Ruacana, Omahenene and Wakasamane. Illegal border crossing continues to negatively affect proper border control and management. Most culprits who cross the borders illegally smuggle illicit goods such as fuel, alcohol, pharmaceutical products and cigarettes.

To ease traffic at the border posts and address the issue of illegal border crossing the region needs an additional border post. Hence, Ministry of Safety, Security, Home Affairs and Immigration should upgrade Okapalelona Police Border Control Point to a fully-fledged border post.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

The National Road Network consists of a total length of approximately 49,202.92 km, of which 8400 km are bitumen surfaced, 26,034 km is gravel, 13,773.8 km is earth roads (cleared tracks), salt roads is 330.1 km and the proclaimed roads that are not yet built totals 665.4 km. The road network in Omusati Region comprises of about 2430.4 km, of which 733.3 km is bitumen roads, 572.9 km gravel roads, 918.5 km earth tracks and 205.7 km are proclaimed routes.

During the 2021/2022 Financial Year, the Ministry of Works and Transport in collaboration with Roads Authority (RA) has constructed 15.7 km access roads in Omusati Region. These roads have enhanced the communities' access to schools and clinics during rainy seasons. In addition, an amount of N\$14,933,363.55 was spent on blading of gravel roads, bitumen maintenance, litter control and road sign erection.

The groundwork for the construction of labour-based gravel district roads from Tsandi to Iipanda and Onaanda to Otamanzi are progressing well. It is pleasing to report that the community consultations are under way. I call on the affected communities to render their utmost support to the consultants. The commencement of Ombathi-Epato and Oshuungu-Onashiku is planned for 2023/2024. The process for the upgrading of Epalela-Onesi-Tsandi Road to low-volume seal is at design stage.

As far as the planned maintenance activities in the Region are concerned, the following projects were identified: blading maintenance of gravel roads, routine maintenance of bitumen roads (BMU Contracts) and mowing of grass in the road reserves and related works.

Additionally, to regulate road transportation, vehicle and driver registration, testing and licensing for quality mobility and road safety, Road Authority shall establish NaTIS Office in Okahao Town. The project is expected to be completed during the second Quarter of the 2022/2023 Financial Year.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

Besides the said achievements, financial constraints, lack of adequate human resources with specialized skills and expertise, higher learner failure rate, unemployment especially among the youth, inadequate road infrastructure, theft of electrical equipment, illegal connections, vandalism of public infrastructure, lack of sports facilities in the Region, scarcity of potable water due to low pressure, lack of national documents, unavailability of serviced and unserviced land, veld fire, human wildlife conflict, stock theft, lack of Intensive Care Unit facility and gender based violence, amongst others, hamper the efforts to build a cohesive and harmonious citizenry in the Region.

These are the biggest challenges. But as Regional and Local Authorities we remain focused on our mandate of delivering improved services to our inhabitants with the ambit of our means.

Moving towards the conclusion, I would like to urge the Regional Council, Local Authorities, Traditional Authorities and all stakeholders to redouble our efforts to make sure that services are delivered to the public. In the same vein, I call upon the public to join hands by meeting the government halfway. We must safeguard against crime, vandalism, of public assets. And, most importantly in fighting corruption and gender based violence which endanger public safety and social progression.

Thank you for being here today, I really appreciate that you took time to listen to the State of the Region Address.

I THANK YOU!