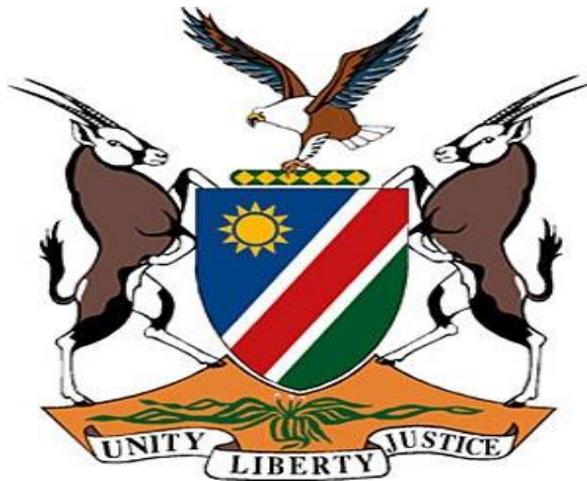


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

OMAHEKE REGION



STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS 2019

BY HONOURABLE FESTUS T. UEITELE

REGIONAL GOVERNOR OF

OMAHEKE REGION

16 MAY 2019

GOBABIS

Honourable Ignasius Kariseb, Chairperson of the Omaheke Regional Council and Constituency Councillor of the Kalahari Constituency,
Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councilors,
His Worship Liberius Kalili, Mayor of the town of Gobabis,
Honourable, Chairperson of the Gobabis Municipality's Management Committee,
Honourable Chairpersons of Village Councils,

Special Guests

Regional Commander of the Namibian Police Omaheke Region,
Commissioner Andreas Haingura,
Regional Commander of the NDF, Lt. Col. Muzanima
The Officer in Charge - Gobabis Correctional Service, A/COMM.
Kamwangha,
Mr. Pijoo Nganate, my Special Advisor,
Mrs. Maria Vaendwanawa, The Chief Regional Officer of the Omaheke Regional Council and all Chief Executive Officers present,
Distinguished Traditional Leaders present,
Comrade Ruth Kaukuata - Mbura, The ruling SWAPO Party's Regional Coordinator,
Regional Coordinator of the Official Opposition Party the PDM, Mr. Tjihuro,
Distinguished Leaders of the respective Political Parties,
Regional Heads of Ministries/Agencies and Institutions of Learning,
Captains of various industries,
Religious leaders present,

Distinguished Invited Guests,
Members of the Media,
Fellow Residents,

Good morning,

It is my distinct honour and privilege to be with you all this morning to deliver my 4rd State of the Region Address.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Councilors**

As we all are aware, the Harambee Prosperity 5 Plan (HPP) serves as an accelerant to our National Development Goals and Vision 2030. It is with this in mind that I intend to address this August house against the topical pillars of the Plan commencing with:

Effective Governance and Service Delivery:

Office of the Governor / Respective line Ministries

As part of safeguarding transparency and accountability in our state institutions, during my previous address, I reported that my office staff as well as that of the Directorate of Education, Arts & Culture, completed and submitted their Performance Agreements and Quarterly Performance review reports to the respective Head Offices. I therefore wish to inform this August gathering that the respective documentation were once again completed and submitted for the period under review.

This is a mandatory requirement, as such all Ministries are urged and hereby encouraged to complete and submit the Performance

Agreements and Quarterly Performance review reports to your respective Head Offices.

The Directorate of Education has effectively managed to implement the New Curriculum at Senior Secondary Level, Grade 10 -11 across the secondary schools in the region. As a result, the following schools have been upgraded to fully fledged Secondary Schools: C. Heuva, Izak Buys, Epukiro Post 3 and Rietquelle. This upgrade was done to ensure that the implementation of the New Curriculum at Senior Secondary Level was effected effectively. As well as to ensure that there is access to education for every Namibian Child and similarly to prevent migration of learners from rural to urban areas as a means of preventing overcrowdings of classes in urban Secondary Schools. It is also worth mentioning that the Directorate of Education executed its Annual Plan 2017/ 18 above 80%, for the financial year ending on 31 March 2019.

The Ministry of Land Reform reviewed its first five year Strategic Plan and has developed a new five year Strategic Plan 2017-18 to 2021/2022 FY for implementation of its projects.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services has implemented recommendations by the Auditor General's office and compiled an Auditor-General report.

The Regional Management team has conducted regular Management meetings to address issues pertaining to service delivery and conducted support supervisory visits to health facilities.

The Ministry has involved the community on health related issues via stakeholders' forums and community mobilization activities.

Distinguished Invited Guests
Fellow Residents

Economic Advancement - 2nd Pillar:

Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension & Engineering Services (Dapees)

The Agricultural sector is one of the leading sectors that can contribute to poverty reduction by providing direct employment and economic advancement, hence the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) through the Directorate of Agricultural, Production and Engineering Services (DAPEES) impacted on planning, design and developing agricultural, water and forestry infrastructure and equipment for the implementation of programmes and projects on irrigation, livestock, agro-industry, dry-land crop production, horticulture and marketing. Two projects the Dryland Crop Production Project (DCPP) and Conservation Agriculture (CA) have been implemented in Omaheke region.

The Dryland Crop Production Project DCPP was implemented with the aim of improving food security at household level by providing subsidized services (ploughing and weeding) and inputs (seeds and fertilizers) to communal farmers in Omaheke region. DCPP also recruited five (5) contractual tractor drivers that assisted farmers with ploughing.

- 150 kg of NPK fertilizers were provided to 1 male farmer .
- 212 kg of maize seeds were distributed to 62 farmers (51 M & 11 F).
- 406 kg of cowpeas seeds were distributed to 84 farmers (66 M & 18 F).

- 51.35 Ha were ploughed and a total of 95 farmers (66 M & 29 F) were assisted with ploughing services.

Namibia Agricultural Mechanization and Seed Improvement Project (NAMSIP)

Is a newly introduced project with the aim of improving household incomes and lives of rural people through increased production and productivity. NAMSIP will cover two components namely;

1. Value Chain Improvement

- Agricultural Mechanization
- Certified Seed System Improvement

2. Institutional Support

- Capacity building
- Project management, monitoring and evaluation

Mechanization will be implemented in all the regions and Seed Improvement only in crop growing regions with enough rainfall; such as the Kavango east, Kavango west, Zambezi, Oshikoto, Oshana and Omusati.

Emergency assistance to promote sustainable livelihood

In response to our Government's request, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) responded by providing technical assistance to our government through resilience building interventions, targeting selected drought affected communities. An amount of N\$ 4.4 million was availed to procure 360 Metric Tons of Grass Hay and Multi-Nutrient Blocks to be distributed to drought affected communities in Omaheke, Erongo, Otjozondjupa and Okunene region. Total of 1200 households will benefit through the initiative (Omaheke 600 Households, Erongo 200 HH, Otjozondjupa 200 HH and Kunene 200

HH). It is with this in mind that we as a region are expected to be proactive and to venture into mechanisms such as green schemes for food and fodder production. This will enable us to mitigate drought in our region and ultimately our country. Fellow Namibians: it is impractical for us to think that we should always receive handouts from good Samaritans; we cannot forever rely on handouts and the good will of others.

Directorate of Education, Arts & Culture

The Directorate of Education created one hundred and four (104) teaching posts inclusive of; two posts for the school principals and ten (10) posts for Heads of Departments, for the financial year 2017/18. Most of these posts have been filled with only a few left pending interviews to be conducted. Equally, four (4) posts of Senior Education Officers will be filled in a short period of time namely: Natural Sciences, Commerce, Otjiherero and TRC (Teachers Resources Centre).

Omaheke Regional Health Directorate

The region received an annual budget allocation of N\$ 93 651 118.00 and achieved 94% execution rate.

Leonardville Village Council

I am pleased to report that the Leonardville Fish Farm is completed and is now fully operational. On the 3rd of May 2019, a trial harvest of about 1.5 tons of tilapia fish from 5 of the 6 fish ponds which were earlier seeded with fingerlings.

The success of this wonderful initiative in a rural area of Omaheke Region, in the Kalahari Desert, is a result of collective

commitment of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Omaheke Regional Council, Leonardville Village Council and community of this great Region.

As some of you may remember, in 2007 the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources spearheaded an aquaculture feasibility study in Omaheke Region and other Regions to determine aquaculture potential. The study found several water fountains in Aminius, Kalahari, Gobabis and Otjombinde Constituencies of our region which have good quality and enough underground water capable of supplying an aquaculture farm producing 600 tonnes or more fish per year, when utilizing a water recirculation system. Our region has excellent fish production conditions during summer.

Fellow residents; Aquaculture produces nutritious food for our people, and is also an enterprise, which has the potential to create employment and income from sale of fish in rural areas. There is a huge demand for fish here in Namibia and internationally, and those who engage in fish production cannot lack a market. I therefore urge you all to initiate activities which generate income for yourselves in your respective areas, so that you may create jobs and bring development to your areas, in order for us to collectively eradicate poverty and assure food security.

The Leonardville Fish farm is undoubtedly a demonstration farm for the entire region. I encourage you all to visit it, use it to learn how you can produce fish to generate food and income for your family. The drought we are facing now should be a learning curve that encourages us to diversify and opt for other alternative farming practices.

Witvlei Village Council

I am pleased to report that a charcoal processing plant has opened its doors employing about 20 local people. The Witvlei plant produces 300 tons of charcoal per month; the Charcoal is exported to South Africa and Europe.

Otjinene Village Council

The Otjinene Village Council hosted its 3rd Expo, a trade exposition that serves as a platform that affords an opportunity for all agri-business actors to interact and be empowered.

Gobabis Municipality

The first phase of the Gobabis Shopping Mall, which is housing a number of retail shops and offices, was officially opened towards the end of 2018. Various new jobs were created for Gobabis residents.

The Council of the Municipality of Gobabis successfully conducted a Public Private Dialogues (PPDS) on Tuesday, 14 August 2018, in collaboration with the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development through its Local Economic Development Agency (LEDA). This platform indeed assisted public institutions such as Gobabis Municipality and the private sectors to mutually identify opportunities, as well as related challenges that might be hampering much needed investment, in order to foster an effective public-private partnership.

Ministry of Land Reform

Through its 'Programme for Communal Land Development' (PCLD), the MLR supports the economic development of communal land which is considered un- or underutilized by improving tenure security through development of Infrastructure and registration of communal land rights.

The Infrastructure development under PCLD will commence in Eiseb Block at Eiseb 10 south-eastwards and Turauhane north-eastwards and Epukiro at Ondjora southwards and East of Outjiro. Infrastructure development (water and Boreholes) to the tune of N\$4,000,000-00 will commence during 2019/2020 on a land of 107,000 Hectares.

In Otjinene Constituency PCLD will re-commence with Local Level Participatory Planning, to identify the infrastructure development.

The Communities from the focal area will be assisted with a Pipeline, Reservoir, Troughs, Engine, mono pumps, Kraals (water Kraal and handling kraal), Crushpen and neck clamp at Ondjora and Outjiro).

Fellow Residents

Omaheke Regional Council

A service level agreement between Omaheke Regional Council and Social Security on the implementation of two projects (i.e. N\$1, 900, 00 for Gebedshoop San project at Otjombinde constituency and N\$ 975 000 00 for Vergenoeg Wood and Charcoal projects at Kalahari constituency) has been entered into. An amount of N\$327,585.00 representing the 40% initial contribution for the Vergenoeg project has been transferred

to the Regional Council on 29 March 2019 from Social Security Development Fund.

The Regional Council also submitted an application for USA Grant towards the Kalahari Wild Silk amounting to the tune of N\$151,599.90 as requested by the project beneficiaries. The Council has also enlisted the service of Peace Corp volunteer to assist with transformation of the Kalahari Wild Silk into a community cooperative as well as building the capacity of the project.

Social Security funding

The main objective of the Social Security Commission is to provide social protection in Namibia. I am happy to report to you that during the period under review, the Social Security Commission awarded four (4) study bursaries and one study loan to students in Omaheke under their Study Loan and Bursary Scheme.

The study bursaries awarded are for the following fields of studies:

Bachelors of Agriculture (UNAM)

Bachelors of Engineering (UNAM)

Diploma in Health & Wellness Studies (IUM)

Certificate Air-conditioning & Refrigeration (NAMVOC- OKAKARARA)

The study loan awarded to one student was for a Bachelors of Education.

Social Progression – 3rd Pillar:

Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension & Engineering Services (Dapees):

The core mandate of DAPEES is to provide Agricultural Extension Services in the form of communication, advisory and training services.

The livelihood of Affirmative Action Farmers, resettlement as well as communal farmers are being improved through continues extension services.

Trainings: In total 28 farmers (12 Male & 16 Female) received training on Livestock management: Goats breeds, Goats management practices, animal health, animal nutrition, marketing and record keeping.

Demonstration: A Demonstration day organised on proper method of transplanting onions, beetroot and cabbage and about 34 farmers (6 Male & 18 Female) attended the day.

Information day: About 480 farmers (323 Male & 149 Female) attended the information day and the topic were as following; how to make profit from farming, provision of tax labour act, water analysis, licks supplement, keeping marketing records, DVS blue files and de-bushing.

Household garden: Five (5) existing backyard gardens were visited to assess progress and to provide information and training regarding crop husbandry, horticultural production and marketing.

Farmers visiting Agriculture Development Centre (ADC): 54 farmers (30 Male & 24 Female) visited the offices seeking information on type of

crops to grow in winter, Agribank loan scheme, livestock improvement permit, drought mitigation strategies, crop and animal husbandry, livestock diseases treatment & prevention, controlling of poisonous plant and livestock supplements.

Ministry of Land Reform

A total of Eighteen (18) farms which is *twenty nine (29) farming units* were advertised in the local media inviting interested Namibians countrywide to apply for consideration for resettlement under the Government's Resettlement Programme.

From the above mentioned farming units, Omaheke region only managed to contribute to Two (2) farms with five (5) farming units.

The Omaheke Regional Resettlement Committee alone for the five farming units received an approximately *Seven hundred and one (701)* applications. The received applications were considered by the Committee in order to select and recommend suitable applicants to the Minister through the Land Reform Advisory Commission.

Let me inform you that, as the Chairperson of the Omaheke Regional Resettlement Committee, it was practical impossible to recommend all applicants as the demand for resettlement in terms of number of applications received compared to the number of farming units advertised is not equitable.

Although there were *only five (5) farming units* demarcated in Omaheke Region. The Omaheke Regional Resettlement Committee recommendations to the Commission, managed to get *three (3)*

Applications successful, which were approved and allocated by the Minister of Land Reform.

In Omaheke Region an increase of Farm Offers has been recorded during the third and fourth quarter of the financial year under review, of which **Twenty Eight (28)** Farm Offers were received and assessed for resettlement suitability and possible acquisition.

The Ministry of Land Reform came up with an initiative that allocated farmers are trained in basic farming techniques and to equip farmers with knowledge to farm productively prior to physical occupation of their farming units and during the period under review **Nine (9)** beneficiaries received the pre-settlement training.

The Ministry managed to host a workshop for Regional Consultation as preparation for the Second Land Conference and conducted the Second National Land Conference on the 1 to 5 October 2018.

Resolutions of the Second Land Conference are available at the Ministry of Land Reform website (www.mlr.gov.na)

The Ministry of Land Reform is implementing the Livelihood Support Programme (LISUP) to the Group Resettlement Projects of Drimiopsis, Skoonheid, Donkerbos/Sonneblom since the year 2007 in close collaboration with Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN). An amount of **N\$711,642.00** was spent for the livelihood support of the three group resettlement:

During the period under review the beneficiaries of the three group resettlement have managed to collect **N\$53,000-00** through **OMBA Art Project**.

The Ministry is mandated to ensure Security of Tenure and Communal Land Development in Communal Area. Omaheke Region through the able recognized Traditional Authority and Omaheke Communal Land Board has received **one hundred seven (107)** communal land rights applications of which **Eleven (11)** customary land rights were registered.

The Ministry removed fences in Communal Areas at a cost of **N\$283,284.10** in Aminuis communal area and the costs from the illegal fence holders will be recovered through Omaheke Communal Land Board.

Omaheke Regional Council

RURAL DEVELOPMENT 2018/19

A total amount of N\$13,171,454.00 was allocated to Rural Development within Omaheke Regional Council, whereby a total amount of N\$5,804,545.33 is utilized to implement different projects in seven constituencies. The amount utilized represents 44.1% of total allocation to Omaheke Regional Council. The beneficiaries who benefited are estimated at 233 households, funds are utilized to purchase services, equipment, materials and tools for different projects. The implementation of the rural projects with remaining budgets for different programmes are in progress.

1.1 Rural sanitation

A Total budget of N\$2,650,473.00 was allocated for the construction of dry toilets in rural areas within the region. The total number of toilets completed during period of reporting were 110 at household level and the amount utilized to construct these toilets is N\$1,106,024.84. An additional 122 dry toilets are under construction with the remaining budget.

1.2 Rural Electrification

A total amount of N\$651,501.50 was allocated to electrify the Aminius build together houses at Aminius and Epukiro RC. Aminius build together electrification is completed while electrification of Epukiro RC is in progress.

1.3 Projects funded with VAT contributions

A total amount of N\$3,266,017.36 out of N\$5,816,272.97 was utilized to purchase equipment, materials and tools for different projects within the constituencies, benefitting more than 103 households. The implementation of the projects is in progress with the remaining balance of N\$2,550,255.61.

1.4 Projects funded with Local Authority contributions

A total amount of N\$194,467.45 out of N\$ N\$413,780.00 was utilized to purchase equipment, materials and tools for different projects; benefitting 11 households. Implementation of the projects is in progress with the remaining funds.

1.5 Micro finance

The total amount of N\$220,208 out of the budget of N\$521, 291.91 is utilized to purchase equipment for four projects, benefitting 10 people; these projects are aimed at SMEs development.

1.6 Rural employment scheme

A total amount of N\$100,961.00 out of the budget of N\$400, 2170.55 is utilized to purchase equipment for the bakery in Aminius Constituency. The project is expected to employ five (5) people.

1.7 Support to rural poor farmers and Food security/Regional Specific Action Plan

A purchase order amounting to N\$398,696.90 out of the budget of N\$403,830.00 was issued to a service provider to acquire livestock for 12 households in Gobabis, Otjombinde and Epukiro constituencies. The delivery of the goats is however still in process.

2. Disaster risk Management in the Region

Omaheke Region is not spared from disasters such as veld fires. Draught occurrence as a result of poor rainfall has been experienced over that past four years. The severity has differed from year to year. The 2017 rainfall was slightly below average in most constituencies however Aminuis was most affected as the veld conditions deteriorated and affected the livelihood of its residents.

Based on the assessment done, food items were received and distributed in Aminuis Constituency. The other Constituencies affected were

Epukiro and Kalahari respectively. The Office of the Prime Minister informed the Omaheke Regional Council (ORC) through the Directorate Disaster Risk Management (DDRM) that the 7,000 (10kg) bags of wheat grain and 39,612 bags of maize meal have been allocated to the Region (Aminius Constituency). The approved donated wheat grain distribution was fully completed on 23 November 2018.

It should be noted that the total expenses for the distribution phase was N\$ 427,676.74.

The total households who benefited were 12,520 in Aminuis. Total number of beneficiaries is 11,978 from 04 December 2018 to 05 April 2019. As such 7,656, 12.5kg bags of maize meal were distributed accordingly.

It should be however noted that the distribution process in Aminius Constituency is still ongoing.

Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS)

DVS is also closely involved in the proper marketing of livestock within the region to ensure sustainability of the selling platforms by ensuring only healthy animals are permitted into auction premises.

The office have been carrying out continual rabies vaccination at the office in addition vaccinations were done at three different loci within Gobabis during year 2018 *i.e.* Epako, Rakutuka and Kanaan C, in order to prevent this deadly disease which is transmissible to humans.

In response to rabies cases a total of 31 persons have been referred for medical attention after coming into contact with confirmed rabid animals. DVS staff attended to vaccinate animals susceptible to rabies at the farms where human contact incidences took place.

Directorate of Education, Arts & Culture

As part of the New Curriculum implementation, the technical field was introduced at Wennie Du Plessis SS. The Technical Block that is used for this purpose is fully equipped and functional. It is worth noting that vocational education caters for those who are less gifted at academic subjects. This allows for these particular learners to do what they are good at technically. This also answers to the call of Vision 2030, that of an industrialised Namibia spearheaded by the blue –collared artisans. We should be reminded that it is only the artisans that can bring about industrialization as this has been proven by developed countries like Japan and Germany, to mention but a few.

The issue of under and unqualified teachers for: San, Setswana, Khoe - khoe Gowab, Afrikaans and Otjiherero remains a challenge. I therefore urge the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to prioritize the funding of students who are studying these local languages, whose skills are rare. Fellow residents of Omaheke, allow me to make use of this platform to encourage our learners to study local languages. We should find pride in our mother languages.

The retaining of marginalized groups in school, the San learners to be specific remains another big challenge as well as the lack of parental

involvement in education of their children. High drop- out rates, lack of effective monitoring is another big challenge. It is for this reason that upon all parents, employers and other stakeholders to extend a helping hand to Government to ensure that our children are in school and complete school. I urge and encourage the parents to be part and parcel of their children's education. Some of us we raised by an entire "village" and that in itself assisted with molding us into becoming upstanding individuals.

Omaheke Regional Health Directorate

With regard to the TB and Leprosy Program Services, the region maintains its 93% Treatment success rate above the WHO target of 90%.

Maternal and Child Health Days and African vaccination Days were successfully conducted. The social mobilization team was set up to give radio slots to remind the community to take their children to health facilities to be vaccinated.

The immunization coverage of 110% Pentavalent and 110% Measles were recorded.

The Ministry has monitored the maternal, neonatal and infant health in the region by conducting maternal and neonatal death reviews.

The Ministry of Health and Social services (MoHSS) as a stakeholder conducted ANC (Antenatal Care) weekly at the Lady Pohamba Maternity Waiting Home including Health Talks.

The MoHSS continued to play a pivotal role of facilitating the outside cooking area and the Guardhouse's construction which were completed.

The occupational therapy section managed to provide occupational therapy treatment to 780 patients at the hospital.

The occupational therapy section prescribed and issued 1 wheelchair, 2 walking frames, 6 elbow crutches, and 149 axilla crutches, 35 splints and 3 assistive devices.

Fellow Residents,

Otjinene Village Council

The Otjinene Village Council availed blocks of erven to the Shack Dwellers Federation for the construction of houses. Shack Dwellers Federation will initially construct 56 houses and then proceed with the construction of another 297 houses. The Council as part of its cooperate social responsibility sponsored the four (4) schools in its area with N\$ 1000.00 for each school, a total of N\$ 4000.00.

Gobabis Municipality

In terms of the social progression, the Council of the Municipality of Gobabis managed to assist in the following areas:

Assistance to Communities in coping with drought: The Council although it has limited grazing areas, managed to assist the Communities with some grazing on her Town lands. The Council further availed areas within her boundaries to affected communities to harvest grass for the feeding of their animals.

Provision of Serviced Land for Residential Purposes:

- The Municipality successfully concluded the re-blocking of Freedom Square Informal settlement, where 1024 households were allocated, a 300m² size erven, which they can get ownership under the Flexible Land Tenure Act which is being piloted in Gobabis by the Ministry of Land Reform. This programme has been extended to Kanaan C Informal Settlement.
- **Sanitation:** The Council managed to ensure the total **elimination of the bucket toilet System** in Kanaan A Informal Settlement Area, as per the directive from the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. In so doing, water reticulation; installation of prep paid water metres; and changing of all dry toilets to water borne toilets in the said area has been successfully completed. Since the Hepatitis E outbreak was reported in Gobabis Informal Settlement Areas; the Council has been providing free water through water tanks to Kanaan B and C Informal Settlement residents; and there is a continuous supply of water purification tablets to affected communities in collaboration with Health Extension Workers and the Ministry of Health. A total of seven (7) portable toilets have been placed in the affected area(s).

The Municipality successfully replaced the vacuum sewer system in Ongulumbashe and replaced the Dry Toilets in Kanaan A with waterborne sewer systems this year April 2019 and 50 temporary employments was created.

The Municipality of Gobabis outsourced some of the Town cleaning duties and contracts were entered into with a group of previous casual employees of Council known as Tuahangana Solid Waste, employing 31 employees in that process.

Health Care Facilities: Construction of phase one of the Regional Maternity Waiting Shelter has been successfully completed and now fully functional. In addition, the construction of an Elderly Care Centre in Kanaan A Informal Settlement Area has been completed and is also fully functional.

Human Capital Development:

Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension & Engineering Services (Dapees):

DAPPES maintains on improving the capacity building of its staff members by organizing and providing staff members with relevant training and new introduced technologies.

Eight (8) staff members (3 Female & 5 Male) received training on Conservation Agriculture as an initiative that will enhance small scale farmers productivity through increased application of sustainable farming.

Eight (8) staff members (3 Female & 5 Male) received training on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) as an important tool that will assist farmers to identify their own problems, needs and come up with amicable solution.

Ministry of Land Reform

The Ministry' Omaheke Regional Staff component is currently under the management and supervision of the Omaheke Regional Council for the purpose of decentralization.

The decentralization process aims to bring services closer to the people for the enhancement of service delivery.

First progress assessment review for delegated functions under decentralization was conducted with Ministry of Urban and Rural Development.

Three staff members are pursuing qualifying training at Namibia Universities at own cost.

Omaheke Regional Health Directorate

One (1) Enrolled Nurse was granted special study leave to further his studies under the fellowship program.

Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS)

DVS continuously takes part in various training exercises e.g. farmers' days, students training and individual consultations with farmers.

A total of 37 farmers were trained on Livestock Vaccination at Tsjaka and Omitara during 2018/2019 financial year. It's a project that is on-going and we plan to train more farmers in Aminus, Otjombinde and Plessisplaas. The purpose of the training is to improve animal health and enhance livestock productivity in Omaheke region.

They have offered industrial training to a total of 5 students from three different campuses of the University of Namibia and another 5 students from the Gobabis Vocational Training Centre and two unemployed agricultural youth from Gobabis.

They have also offered training to the newly resettled farmers at Tsjaka Ben Hur during a workshop organized by the Ministry of Land Reform

Ministry of Safety and Security (Nampol)

During the 2018/2019 Financial year the Namibian Police Force organised few training courses relating to member`s duties to gain knowledge and skills with the aim of improving service delivery. The financial assistance to part time and distance members of the force was suspended indefinite however members are encouraged to further their studies in different fields of studies. The 50/50 study leave which was suspended was also uplifted and members can make use of such opportunity.

Gobabis Municipality

During the 2018/2019 financial year, three (3) students were attached to various Departments within Gobabis Municipality for Job attachment as follow:

1. Ms. Johanna E. Amalwa, Student from Triumphat College pursuing an advanced Diploma in Accounting and Finance, was attached to the Finance Department.
2. Ms. Ngumatja Kandorozi, Student from Namibia University of Science and Technology [NUST] pursuing a Degree in Human Resources Management, was attached to the Human Resources Department.

3. Mr. Veitjiua Kahuure, Student from the College of Cape Town pursuing a National Diploma in Electrical Engineering was attached to the Technical Department.

Witvlei Village Council

The Witvlei Village Council contracted an ICT training provider to train about 30 Witvlei residents in basic computer training, covering all Microsoft modules.

Directorate of Education, Arts & Culture

One hundred and fourteen (114) teachers are currently registered for In-service Training Programme doing, DJPE (a Diploma in Junior Primary Education) at UNAM. This is meant to address the shortage of qualified teachers and subsequently improve the quality of education through teaching and learning processes. In addition, one hundred and nineteen (119) teachers have been professionally trained in various subjects to prepare them for the effective implementation of the New Curriculum at Senior Secondary Level. Similarly, twenty five (25) TOTs (Trainers of Trainees) were also trained to give continuous professional support and trainings to fellow teachers through CPD (Continuous Professional Development) Programme.

Infrastructure Development- 4th Pillar:

Omaheke Regional Council

The Regional Council has utilised 12% of its shared budget allocation for the new capital projects while the actual implementation progress is

assessed at 35%. The Regional Council has acknowledged the delay in its procurement process which must be improved in order to expedite the project execution. However, 10 out of the 12 capital projects commenced with construction and the region has submitted all invoices for work completed before the financial year ending. Due to the “under and over” quoting of bids, the contractors for Epukiro and Aminuis were not appointed. The contractors for construction of services at Buitepos and Drimiopsis did an impressive performance to achieve more than 75% work progress.

The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development has allocated an additional N\$16.4 million to the Government Office Park, totalling the Ministerial transfer to the region to an amount of N\$37,236,880.64. This scenario resulted to the utilisation of the 75% of the total budget allocated of N\$49,000,000.00 to the region during 2018/19.

On Witvlei project, the negligence of both the principal agent and the contractor has delayed the progress and thus intervention to expedite the completion has been initiated and the contractor has strengthened its capacity at the site. It is anticipated that the ongoing project should be completed by 12 July 2019.

The materials for the repairs of 37 out of 40 Build Together houses for Otjinene village were procured at cost of N\$331,954.39 by the Omaheke Regional Council and were distributed to beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are currently completing their own houses with their selected local contractors.

Omaheke Regional Health Directorate

The Expansion and renovation of Otjimanangombe clinic funded by Global Fund was completed, although there are still outstanding items to be rectified.

Ministry of Land Reform

The Ministry embarked upon a once-off farms infrastructure development / rehabilitation on resettlement farming units on all resettlement farms in Namibia.

During the year under Review seventeen (17) Solar pumping systems at a tune of N\$1,350,000.00 have been procured for installation.

Seventeen (17) farming units in Omaheke that will be beneficial of the installation of the solar pumping systems are follows: Farm Units:(Groot Rooibult x 2 Units, Du Plessis x 3 Units, Somerkoms x 1 Unit, Karamba x 1 Unit, Dankbaar x 2 Units, Goab x 1 Unit, Jagboom x 2 Units, Arbeidsvree x 1 Unit, Annaheib x 2 Units, Uitsig x 1 Unit, Rosendal x 1 Unit and Goreb x 1 Unit).

Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS)

The Gobabis veterinary office facilitated the acquisition of 160 rolls (PVC, 63 mm) water pipes for channelling water from Gam borehole to Gam quarantine facility and Gam gate. In conjunction with the sister directorates, the Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension and Engineering Services (DAPEES) and Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination (DWSSC) offered technical assistance to lay and connect the pipes.

Directorate of Education, Arts & Culture

Two (2) Module classrooms with a storeroom each were built at each of the following schools: Epako HS, & Gobabis Project School. One (1) manhole was constructed at Epako HS as well as high guard rails at Gobabis Project School respectively.

In addition, the following schools received renovations: Izak Buys; entire girls' hostel block and three classrooms' floors. C. Heuva; entire boys' hostel block. A bachelor flat was also built at Drimiopisis PS to cater for teachers' accommodation as well the Construction of one (1) septic tank. Furthermore, Goeie Hoop P.S' Sewer line was upgraded and installed with brand new pumping machines.

Gobabis Municipality

The Council managed to complete the provision of water and sewer reticulation services to 114 Erven in Epako Extension 3, commonly known as Ongulumbashe.

The Municipality Allocated 107 planned erven to Oluzizi Engineering had serviced 107 erven and house construction is currently underway.

Blacky Tjingaete was allocated 68 erven which are at construction stage and 14 houses have been completed in Rakutuka.

Eagle Focus Investment CC was allocated 50 erven of which all are at planning stage.

The Municipality allocated virgin unplanned land to the following Property Developers for the provision of housing:-

- Niilenge Investment Cc: has serviced, 119 erven and construction of residential properties are underway.
- Omaheke Housing: 168 erven in Gobabis Town
- Hallelujah Glory: 250 erven in Epako
- Gobabis Properties: 95 erven in Gobabis Town
- Kanaan Informal Settlement has been provided with Municipal Infrastructure: Water reticulation 80%, Sewer Reticulation 50% and electricity covering 40%.
- The Provision of Municipal services for 1300 erven in Freedom Square Informal Settlement is in progress of which water reticulation is completed and sewerage reticulation is at 85% complete.

Otjinene Village Council

The Otjinene Village Council installed 350 pre-paid water meters and connected 180 houses to the new water system. I am further pleased to announced that a project for the construction of a road approximately one (1) km leading to three (3) schools in Otjinene has been completed as well.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Councilors**

International Relations and Cooperation – 5th and final Pillar:

This pillar addresses the need for us to keep track with the happenings of the world; our relationships with our African neighbours, other countries in the world.

Ministry of Land Reform

The Ministry of Land Reform is working in collaboration with the Basket fund in the implementation of its Communal Land Development programme. The focus is primarily Security of Tenure and Infrastructure development in communal area.

Directorate of Education, Arts & Culture

The teaching contract of nine (9) Batswana teachers who taught at various schools across the region ended at the end of academic year 2018. They have since returned to their country.

Omaheke Regional Health Directorate

The Omaheke Regional Health Directorate received financial and technical support from UNICEF and WHO to carry out Family Health and Special programme activities.

The Ministry approached the USA Embassy through the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to secure funds to fund the employment of the health professionals namely one Medical Doctor, a Nurse and a Pharmacist Assistant and received a positive response and the USA Ambassador, Her Excellency Madam Lisa Johnson visited Omaheke region on the 09th April 2018.

The Omaheke Regional Health Directorate was represented at an international hospital exchange clinical visit in Tasmania, Australia, from 04 November -14 December 2018, as the region has established

collaboration on clinical exchange program in Anaesthesia and Obstetrics with the Royal Hobart Hospital in Tasmania, Australia

The Omaheke Regional Health Directorate was part of the team that visited Ghana last year on the donors and health stakeholders' coordination which culminated in the establishment of the Health Assembly in Namibia.

Omaheke Regional Health Directorate has conducted cross border meetings with Botswana on health related matters as stipulated in the memorandum of understanding

Other Developmental Activities- Regional overview

Nampol

The Namibian Police Force has 5 secondary functions including the investigation of crime and alleged crime in the region.

Crime in the Region is manageable and the most reported crime in the Region is as follows:

- (i) Assault GBH
- (ii) Assault Common
- (iii) Theft
- (iv) Stock Theft
- (v) House breaking and theft of residential premises

The following serious crimes were reported from 1 April 2018 to March 2019-03-12

CRIME REPORTED	NO OF CASES REPORTED
Murder	17
Armed Robberies	01
Robberies with aggravating circumstances	02
Housebreaking and theft	31
Theft (high value involved)	23
Fraud	04

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Fellow Residents

Serious Crime reported during 2017/18 financial year

Gender Based Violence

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Despite of efforts in place to combat Gender based Violence it is still on the increase and Assault with the intend to do grievous bodily harm, Assault Common and Rape are the most reported cases with the Gender Based violence Protection Sub Division. The Contributing factors to the Above mentioned cases are attributed to Alcohol and drug abuse as well as cultural practices.

Human trafficking

No Human trafficking case was reported in the Region up to date.

Stock Theft

The following successes have been recorded with stock theft cases reported in the Region from 1 April 2018 to March 2019.

Reported cases	Big stock		Small stock		Value of stock stolen	Value of recovered stock	Arrests made
	Stolen	Recovered	Stolen	Recovered			
205	394	183	321	134	N\$ 3 581 495.00	N\$ 1 357 518.00	244

Drug Law Enforcement

Drugs are also prevalent in the Region whereby cannabis and Mandrax are popular because they are cheap. Cases of Drugs are recorded as follows during the financial year under review in the Region:

Cases Reported	Type of Drugs	Quantity	Value	Suspects arrested
91	Cannabis	18 334. 55g	N\$ 43 921.60	118
06	Mandrax	106	N\$ 13 291.00	12
97			N\$ 57 212 - 06	130

Private Sector

STANDARD BANK

The Standard Bank Namibia has demonstrated that it is determined to live by its slogan “Moving Forward”. And they’ve also demonstrated that they strive to be relevant and play a very important role in economic development in the communities in which they operate. And that they are, determined to move our region, Omaheke forward with

them, by investing in the region and boosting our Local Economic growth as well as creating employment.

Below are some of the projects that they have embarked on and/ or will embark during the year 2019:

1. Otjinene Container branch will be converted to a fully-fledged agency in a permanent structure- Estimated cost N\$5 000 000.00
2. Establishment of the Kalahari Border Post Agency and importance of facilitating Trans Kalahari cross-border trade transactions- Estimated Cost- N\$23, 28708.56
3. Presence with a fully-fledged Branch at Gobabis and Standard Bank Namibia's market confidence in the Omaheke Region.
4. They are looking at putting up another ATM in Epako.
5. They considering to expand their presence by putting up an ATM in Aminius

With regard to Sponsorships and donations, the following support was rendered by the bank:

- Renovation of the Hostel Kitchen of the Goeie Hoop School in Epukiro - Value N\$500 000
- Renovation and Upgrade of the girls Hostel of Mpe Thuto Girls Hostel - Value N\$1 00 000
- 2018 Otjinene Expo & Otjinene Horse Racing - Value N\$50 000
- 2019 Otjinene Expo & Otjinene Horse Racing - Value N\$50 000
- 2019 Epukiro Horse Racing – Value N\$40 000

- 2018 Construction of a Shelter for the Pensioners (when receiving government grants) in partnership with the Ovambanderu Traditional Authority – Value N\$18 000
- 2018 - The bank donated 20 houses in Otjinene under the Buy-a-Brick initiative
- Omaheke Agric Show- Value 50 000

Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Councilors

NAMSOV

Last year I informed this august gathering and went on record as having pledged to dedicate last year to Youth development. I took it upon myself as a promise to you the people of this region and our country in general to ensure that we work towards the establishment of Hub that will focus on youth developmental issues. This is still my solemn promise!

The Office of the Governor has received over the past 4 years an amount of N\$500 000 from the Namsov Community Trust. This money has been given for the past 3 years to SME's in the form of a grants, ranging from N\$ 6 000 – 100 000 per beneficiary. We have noticed that in exemption of a very few, not much impact was made. Therefore in line with my pledge during the last state of the region address, the plight of our youth in the region, urban poverty, food shortage as well as the persistent drought, we are experiencing; I, in consultation with the committee that takes decisions on the NCT fund decided to look at a lasting solution to the problems I just mentioned.

On the basis of the above, it has been decided that no funding will be allocated this year to individual projects. However, the money will be used in partnership with the Gobabis Municipality, Aminuis community, NUST and Agribusdev to examine the possibility of a green scheme, incubation hub, at Aminuis, Farm Newehoop and the municipality sewerage ponds respectively. The aim is to produce fodder for our animals that will carry us through the drought and produce food for our people. In regard to the youth, we are working together with the reknowned academic on a model of setting up an incubation centre that will equip the youth with the necessary skills. This centre will equip our youth with an opportunity to utilize their innovation, to serve as a research centre, a model similar to that of the Silicon Valley. Our youth will receive both onsite theoretical and practical training. This will eventually lead to the creation of an innovation harbour for SADC. Draft business plans are in place and soon, I will engage all relevant stake holders.

In my view, these two (2) models are more sustainable and beneficial to all of us.

GOVERNOR'S ANNUAL CHARITY EVENT

As you may be aware, my office hosted the Governor's Annual Charity in the constituencies of Gobabis (2015) Aminuis (2015); Epukiro (2016) Otjombinde (2017) and Otjinene on the 06th of December 2018. This event is driven by the spirit of Ubuntu, that of caring for one another. The Ubuntu concept speaks to the believe that: "You are because I am".

This platform accords our communities the opportunity to network with the leadership and themselves.

CHALLENGES:

The slow implementation of Capital projects

This is a worrisome scenario; we must stop forth without any further delay. We can never be responsible for denying people services and goods because of our own beaurocracies and office politics.

Information dissemination to all members of our region within the respective seven constituencies

We should strengthening the working of Constituency development committees, Village Development committees in order for us to affect the implementation of a bottom top approach in all our institutions

The lack of coordination amongst different directorates of a particular ministry should be a thing of the past. Directorates can never work in isolation with one another but collaborate in terms of information and resource sharing.

Regrettably, we have not received any inputs from some critical Ministries, Offices and Agencies. Such as the Ministry of Finance, Directorate of Immigration, Directorate of Rural, Water Supply and Sanitation, Ministry of Labour & Employment Creation, Ministry of Poverty Eradication & Social Welfare, Ministry of Industrialization, Trade & SME Development, Directorate of Sports, Directorate of Forestry, Ministry of Information, Communication Technology, Division Marginalized communities(Office of the Vice President), Correctional Services, Ministry of Justice. These Ministries should provide my office with a written explanation as to the reasons why no adherence was given to my request for inputs within seven (7) working days.

WAY FORWARD:

Fellow citizens, as I conclude my address:

The current drought challenges Namibia is facing strike at the very base of food security, the ability of our country to feed its citizens is alarming. While this is a challenge, it also presents opportunities for innovative solutions. The President of our Republic has declared a State of Emergency on the drought situation. Government through the Ministry of Poverty Eradication is working tirelessly to respond to our food security needs. This is a time to harness the full capacity Namibia has to offer to find solutions to youth unemployment and food security challenges. The As I have mentioned earlier, my office has enlisted the services of technical experts to develop a blueprint of small scale but high impact and sustainable development projects in the agriculture, agro-processing and start-up innovation space. This blueprint is aligned with the government's Growth@Home Strategy focusing on self-sufficiency and adding value to local raw material. The projects include a 30 ha irrigation project to produce vegetables, animal feed (Brazil grass, Lucern etc) and flowers taking advantage of the abundant underground water resources in some parts of our region. Discussions with potential partners are ongoing.

However, as your Governor, I am painfully aware of the plight of our youth in the region. I repeat once again that the youth are a resource because they have innovative ideas and all they need is support to commercialize those ideas. To develop Omaheke Region, unlocking the innovative potential embedded in our youth is critical.

Long Live the Spirit of Harambee!

Long Live the President of the Republic of Namibia!

Long Live Omaheke!

May the Cattle Region Prosper!