



**Office of the Governor  
Omaheke Region**

**Omaheke State of the Region Address (SORA) 2025**

**Gobabis, Omaheke Region**

**Monday, 14th July, 2025 09H00**

**Honourable Chairman of Council and Management Committee,  
Comrade Ignatius Kariseb**

**Honourable Christine //Hoebes, special adviser to the President**

**Honourable Members of Parliament in attendance**

**Honourable Members of the Management Committee**

**Your Worship, Mayor Melba Tjozongoro, and all Chairpersons of  
Village Councils**

**Honourable Former Governors present here**

**Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors**

**Honourable Ruth Kaukuata-Mbura, SWAPO Party Regional Coordinator**

**Regional Coordinators of the Official Opposition and all other political  
parties present here**

**Mr Pecka Semba, Chief Regional Officer of the Omaheke Regional  
Council**

**Esteemed Heads of Services and Line Ministries**

**Chief Executive Officers of Distinguished Traditional Leaders,  
Religious and Community Leaders**

**Our Civil Servants**

**Captains of Industry**

**Cde wife, Helmi Ngutuavanga Nganate**

**Beloved Residents of the Omaheke Region**

**Members of the Media,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**And to every ear tuned in, a very good morning to you all.**

Let me express my sincere and humble appreciation to the God of our forefathers and foremothers, our God to whom only glory is due, for His mercy and for the selection and appointment of leaders at different intervals of our time. Allow me to register my sincere appreciation to our President, and Her Excellency Doctor Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, for having given me a second opportunity to reflect once again on my mandate, to correct where we have failed over the past five years, and for the trust that under my leadership and ours collectively, we can move our Region to the next level of development and shared prosperity.

We are under obligation and command to ensure that all people living within the boundaries of this region are respected, taken care of, and that their needs are met.

Our president's leadership is forward-looking and centred on a socio-economic developmental model grounded on five key principles:

- Pragmatism
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Meritocracy
- Inclusivity

Under such leadership principles, as her direct representative in the Region of Omaheke, I am duty bound to embrace these principles without compromise.

I believe these principles must also be scaled down to our regional, local and traditional authorities, religious, business, NGO, governmental heads and workers in general. Ultimately, the whole of Omaheke's residents must hit the ground running.

We must serve the people of Omaheke beyond the call of duty and must shake ourselves out of our comfort zones and self-declared kingdoms. Now is the time to outwardly embrace servant-rooted leadership and have soft hearts, skilful hands, and tough minds, hence the theme “Driving Inclusive Development Through Pragmatic Leadership and People- centered Action.”

With this in mind, we are therefore reminded that as Regional Governor, I am bound by the Constitution in Article 110(b), (c), (e), and (f) to deliver a State of the Region Address (SORA) after the President of the Republic of Namibia delivers her State of the Nation Address (SONA). The State of the Region Address informs the state of affairs of the region, reports on the activities of the central government for the previous financial year, and reports on the implementation status of national developmental programmes and provides the roadmap for the year ahead, and that is why we are all gathered here.

**Honourable Chairperson**  
**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

I will fail the people of Omaheke and this country at large if I omit to mention that my reappointment is not mine alone but all of us as a region. I am because you are. And on that note I am directing that we be united; rally behind your governor, your regional and local authorities, traditional leaders, and all to be of one mind and one heart. And that is the recipe for us to move this region to its full potential. Forward ever, backward never. Aluta Continua!

Our departed leaders such as Hosea Kutako, Samuel Maharero, Hendrick Witbooi, and of recent history Andimba Toivo ya Toivo, Mokganedi Thlabanelo, Kuumbe Tjizera, and Hangane Katjipuka to mention a few, sacrificed their lives in order for us to carry on with the struggle where they have left off. I have no doubt that President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah is of

the resolve to move this country to shared prosperity, and we must join her and the 8th Administration in doing so.

**Fellow Namibians**  
**Distinguished Invited Guests**

Our State of the Region Address has been themed as:

*"Driving Inclusive Development Through Pragmatic Leadership and People-Centred Action."* Based on our theme for this reporting year, the call is upon all of us as regional leaders to change our leadership principles, align them to the vision of our president, and embrace the direction set by our president that this time around nepotism, procrastination, laziness, wastage of government resources, and inefficiency must be things of the past.

As governor, I am tasked with, among others, securing the execution of the following:

Overseeing the implementation of development programmes aimed at accelerating access to land for residential and industrial ervens. It is unacceptable that people are growing old without being provided with ervens. The lack of development is stuck because of our own bureaucratic doings. We must come out of our comfort zones and without delay provide the Minister of Urban and Rural Development with a list of serviced and unserviced erven within our respective localities.

It is expected of me to drive a performance culture within the region and to submit quarterly reports. So it is expected of all of us to do the same moving forward.

The sourcing of local goods and services will be the norm now and must lead to job creation and empowerment for youth and women, curb migration to towns and cities and grow our rural areas.

As Governor, I am directed to listen without compromise to the voices of communities and civil society, particularly grassroots organizations, and in order to realize this, the Office of the Governor will put up suggestion boxes at strategic locations within the region, such as traditional authority houses and local authority areas. I am pleading with you to utilize these boxes in a civil manner to not only give problems but also suggestions on how we can improve the livelihoods and living standards of the people of Omaheke Region and beyond.

Service delivery gaps will be strengthened, and I am urging all leadership, particularly our traditional, local, and regional leadership, to understand that the voices of our people need to be heard.

Any society is judged by how they deal with the most vulnerable members of society and the issues of malnutrition, lack of proper old age homes for our elderly citizens, and the children living and working on the streets can be addressed. The voice of the boy child will enjoy priority within my office, as well as the empowerment of women and youth.

We will in due course announce ways on how to rehabilitate and reintegrate children living and working on the streets but also how to assist the parents of these children - and my call therefore for the Ministry of Health is to start working in close proximity with the Directorate of Gender and to come up with plans. In the meantime my wife is engaging farmers and private sector in this regard.

Let us hold hands, stand together, stop playing the man, and play the ball, the ball being issues such as poverty, ignorance, and disease, among others.

I am pleased to announce that a school is planned for Omaheke that will embrace a hands-on curriculum, and I am happy to welcome my good friends from AMITOFO, who are planning to build this school. This school will take care of orphans and vulnerable children.

I am pleading with law enforcement that we restore law and order in our neighbourhoods by compelling Shebeens and liquor outlets to adhere to operating hours and that the same beautiful peace and tranquillity we experience in Nossobville and Gobabis Town also be experienced in Epako.

With that said, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Councillors, fellow residents of Omaheke, this year's State of the Region Address will be based on the 7 priority areas as contained in the SWAPO Party Manifesto and translated in our NDP6 Plan, and these areas are:

1. Agriculture
2. Sport
3. Youth Empowerment
4. Quality Education and Training
5. Creative Industries
6. Quality Health and Social Welfare
7. Land, Housing, and Sanitation

Among these priority areas we have the following eight economic pillars: Mining, Energy, Oil & Gas, Tourism, Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, Transport and Logistics.

Honourable Chairperson,  
Honourable members

Let me then report on the State of the Region as follows:

### **Priority 1 : Agriculture**

*Omaheke Region is known as the cattle country, however, this report shows our collective efforts in Agriculture diversification .*

#### **The Omaheke Regional Council:**

- Has provided drought relief packages of 270 900 bags of maize meal, 270 900 bottles of 750ml cooking oil and 1083660 units of combined relish (fish, soya , beans)
- The distribution of drought relief packages has reached 22 575 households , covering 67 725 beneficiaries.

#### **The Division of Lands**

- Acquired 4 farms (46,512.75 ha) at a cost of N\$94,332,481.53.
- 22 boreholes were drilled, 17 installed under the Emergency Drought Programme.
- Water infrastructure were developed in 4 communal areas (over N\$21,431,650.04)
- 9 beneficiaries were resettled at farms Fiesta and Wimsrus leaving 2 additional units for farmers in Corridors ,Witvlei, Gobabis and Tsjaka .

The challenges experienced are illegal fencing in communal areas affecting equitable land use, low applications for occupational land rights and lack of consultation among traditional authorities leading to disputes.

The way forward is to enforce an MoU among traditional authorities for land allocation, implement quarterly awareness campaigns on the Communal Land Reform Act and form joint committees to resolve land disputes.



### **The division of Gender Equality and Child Care Protection:**

- Upgraded two diesel-powered boreholes to solar systems (N\$1.3 million).
- The Bakgalagadi community garden was established at Corridor 21.
- Two new boreholes were installed at Epukiro Post 3 and Erindirozombaka (at the cost of N\$350,000 each).

### **The Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination:**

- Supplied Water tanks, tank stands, and water troughs to communities through the Namibia Agricultural Mechanisation and Seed Improvement Project (NAMSIP).
- Over 80 boreholes were successfully drilled, cleaned, rehabilitated, and installed.

The Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination will continue to address the challenges by implementing projects through the Namibia Water Sector Support Programme funded by the African Development Bank (AFDB), and actively monitor and maintain water infrastructure throughout the region.

### **The Ministry of Health and Social Services**

- Identified that malnutrition cases point to underlying agricultural and food security concerns. The way forward to tackle malnutrition will be to integrate nutrition-sensitive interventions via agricultural outreach and explore partnerships for food and nutrition projects. The Office of the Governor in partnership with Global Headstart Kids compiled a report on the status of malnutrition and possible interventions in Omaheke Region. That report will be shared with the Executive Director of Health and the Honourable Minister.

### **The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism:**

- Generated an income of N\$ 13,364.00 through the sale of Devil's Claw

**Honourable Chairperson,  
Honourable members,**

### **The Ministry of Agriculture , Water and Land Reform:**

- Vaccinated 40,650 cattle against Lumpy Skin Disease in the Aminius Communal Area, 32 809 were vaccinated in Epukiro and Rietfontein Constituencies.
- Although 625 cattle were sick during the outbreak, only 112 deaths were recorded.
- 84 livestock auctions held (October 2024–June 2025), with 40,924 cattle, 6,011 sheep, and 5,708 goats sold, generating ~N\$32 million)
- A rabies vaccination campaign has commenced, and a total of 420 pets have been vaccinated thus far.
- Renovations are underway at Gobabis Veterinary Clinic.

The challenges have been that:

1. The Lumpy Skin Disease outbreak is still affecting cattle in the district.
2. Poor state of the Namibia-Botswana international border fence, which requires reconstruction and de-bushing is another challenge.

The way forward is to continue disease prevention measures such as vaccinations, reconstruct and maintain the international border fence to prevent illegal movement.

### **The Okorukambe Constituency:**

Successfully implemented and completed gardening support projects in Witvlei, Omitara, Du Plessis Farm, Skoonheid, and Epukiro RC , materials

such as water tanks, fencing, and drip irrigation were provided to establish the gardens.

Additionally, the constituency successfully established small- to medium-scale poultry farming units for eggs and meat production, with 10 farmers in Witvlei, Omitara, Du Plessis Farm, Skoonheid, and Epukiro RC receiving materials to construct chicken houses.

A pig project was supported in Du Plessis Farm with a budget of N\$ 49,800. Sheep were distributed to 12 beneficiaries during the 2024/2025 financial year. The Community Garden at Skoonheid was supported to transform unused spaces into productive areas.

#### **The Witvlei Village Council:**

Installed portable water for the community garden, which continues to struggle financially.

#### **The Otjinene Village Council:**

A reported achievement is the Otjinene Annual Expo, which includes agriculture as one of its three core sectors (along with trade and entrepreneurship). The annual Expo is scheduled for 30 July–3 August 2025 and is expected to boost local farming networking and exposure, this being a yearly event that helps to boost the Economy of Otjinene.

#### **The Namibian Correctional Services:**

- Provided labour for the construction of a greenhouse at Farm NuweHoop to enhance food security.
- A hydroponics project is in place to impart work skills to supplement their diet.
- 4 inmates have been trained in hydroponics, with 18 currently working on the project.

### **The Directorate of Forestry**

- The region produced 99,019 tons of charcoal and 82,373 tons of firewood during the financial year. There is also an increased interest from farmers in entering into both firewood and charcoal production. Additionally, pole production increased from 12,925 in 2023-2024 to 48,832 in 2024-2025.
- Total regional numbers of permits issued by the Directorate of Forestry were 5,833. A slight increase from 3,976 issued in the previous financial year. These include harvesting (1,040), transport (1,937), exports (1,724) and marketing (1,132), but no import and transit permits were issued.
- The number of seedlings donated to various institutions, such as schools and churches, dropped significantly from 625 in the previous financial year to 198 in the current financial year. Additionally, the quantity of seedlings sold from the GRN nursery fell from 1,687 in the previous financial year to 573 during the current financial year.

### **The Namibian Police:**

Reported that stock theft has been top 5 in reported crimes and remains prevalent in the Omaheke Region. The Namibian Police will continue the monitoring and handling of stock theft cases as part of crime management efforts.

**Honourable Chairperson,  
Honourable members,**

### **Priority 2: Sports**

Sport is a unifying force that transcends colour, religion, and tribe. It does not only foster regional and national pride but also contributes to the economy.

**The Witvlei Village Council:**

Planned the upgrading of sports facilities in Witvlei with an estimated cost of N\$323,241.00.

**The Otjinene Village Council:**

Hosted the Mayoral Cup in 2024 during its 10th anniversary, an event aimed at engaging youth in sports. The main challenges faced include a lack of dedicated sports infrastructure and development programmes, as well as limited investment in youth recreation. Otjinene and Talismanus have been submitted for sports facilities development for 25/26 financial year through the Ministry of Sports.

**The Gobabis Vocational Training Centre (GVTC):**

Is at an advanced stage to acquire additional land from the municipality to expand its facilities to accommodate recreational facilities for the trainees.

**Honourable Chairperson,  
Honourable members,**

**Priority 3 :Youth Empowerment**

If given the right opportunities, our youth have the power to transform not only their own lives but also drive innovation and growth within the region and beyond.

**The Directorate of ICT**

Provides a free internet café to community members, Organisations, Ministries & Agencies.

- A rural ICT centre was established in Talismanus to provide ICT services closer to the community. The challenge is that the internet café does not have enough computers and laptops, causing users to wait (more are needed to resolve this).

**The Division of Lands:**

Contributed to unskilled labour Job creation during water infrastructure construction.

**The Division of Gender Equality and Child Care Protection:**

Supported seven community projects with materials worth (N\$70,000).

**The Office of the President: Marginalised communities initiatives:**

- Ensured 1,335 national documents were issued to San community members in the Omaheke region. The lack of national documents hinders access to services and economic integration. The project to issue documents is ongoing until August 30, 2025, to ensure all eligible members receive them.

**The Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination :**

- Awarded various projects to local contractors who in turn employed Namibian youth to execute the services.

**The Ministry of Health and Social Services:**

- Recruited 63 new staff, including young professionals such as doctors, psychologists, and nurses.

**The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry**

Employed 20 casual workers for 6 months (October 2024–February 2025) to assist with border fence maintenance.

Limited permanent employment opportunities are a challenge, as the current team of 9 is insufficient for fence maintenance.

**The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism**

Appointed four Conservancy Game Guards in Eiseb Conservancy (Three of the appointed guards are from the San community).

**Honourable Chairperson,  
Honourable members,**

**The Ministry of Youth, Sports and National Services**

- Trained 40 youth in business management in August 2024.
- 40 beneficiaries received startup loans between November-December 2024.
- 300 Adolescent Girls and Young Women were trained in digital/financial literacy between August-November 2024.
- 50 Adolescent Girls and Young Women and 28 Adolescent Boys and Young Men received training in Sexual and Gender-based Violence during 2024-2025.

Incomplete regional staff, the absence of sub-offices in Epukiro, Kalahari, Otjombinde.

The USAID/PEPFAR funding freeze has affected programmes as well.

**The Gobabis Municipality:**

- Has taken proactive steps towards youth empowerment by temporarily recruiting around 20 young people to support waste collection efforts, providing them with monthly allowances. Additionally, plans are underway to introduce an internship program across all departments in the current financial year. This initiative seeks to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical experience, while fostering skills development among the youth.
- The Municipality acknowledges the escalating high unemployment rate in the country as a significant challenge, particularly impacting youth and limiting broader opportunities for sustainable job creation.
- The Municipality has renewed the temporary youth employment initiative for waste collection into the current financial year, with budget provisions made to add approximately 15 more youth to manage solid waste around skip containers. Furthermore, the planned internship program will offer students essential practical workplace experience aligned with their academic requirements, aiming to enhance their

employability. Through this program, the Municipality remains committed to supporting education, nurturing talent, and building a skilled and capable future workforce.

#### **The Okorukambe Constituency:**

Provided tables and chairs at a cost of N\$ 35,000.00 to street vendors, primarily small kapana businesses in Witvlei. This intervention aimed to recognize and actively support informal food vendors as vital contributors to economic growth, social inclusion, and cultural identity.

The constituency facilitated the recruitment of 27 out-of-school youth into the Namibia Police Force, Namibia Defence Force, and Correctional Services. In addition, 9 youths were admitted to the National Youth Service for vocational training. These initiatives aim to reduce youth unemployment, promote skills development, and support social and economic empowerment among the youth.

#### **The Witvlei Village Council:**

Has conducted training interventions in tourism and hospitality through Eastern College, targeting local residents as well as individuals from other regions. The initiative aims to build industry-relevant skills and enhance employability in the growing tourism sector.

#### **At Otjinene Village Council:**

- 30 youth are temporarily employed under the Kohorora Hygiene Group.
- Youth involved in Mayoral Cup and Expo 2025.

The area faces high unemployment, with many people moving into Otjinene seeking better livelihoods.

#### **The Social Security Services (SSC):**



- Provided financial and technical support to the Vocational Entrepreneurs Project by O-SPACE (Omaheke Innovation Village) .
- Over N\$600,000 was disbursed during the reporting Financial Year for the Vocational Entrepreneurs Project.
- Social Security Services provided business registrations and business development training for seven T-Vet entrepreneurs.
- Supported individual and project business and product marketing through various media platforms.
- Provided seed capital (funds) to all entrepreneurs to commence individual enterprises and production of marketable products.
- Supported with production stalls, utilities (electricity, water, internet connectivity, etc.)
- Five bursaries were secured for students in Omaheke to pursue different study programmes at different national tertiary institutions.

Support for the Vocational Entrepreneurs Project is still active, with a remaining N\$30,000 per entrepreneur/beneficiary secured for continued production.

**Honourable Chairperson,**  
**Honourable members,**

#### **Priority4 : Quality Education & Training**

*In the words of the late comrade, Dr. Abraham Iyambo; “It is necessary for every educator to get involved in this sector to improve the social- economic sector of our country.”*

#### **The Gobabis Municipality**

- Provided training to approximately 30 local Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in key areas of business development and management. This capacity-building initiative was conducted in collaboration with the Financial Literacy Initiative under the Ministry of

Finance, demonstrating a strong partnership aimed at enhancing entrepreneurial skills within the community.

**The Division of Gender Equality and Child Care Protection:**

- Trained a total of 130 Edu-carers, receiving allowances amounting to N\$2.34 million.
- The number of Early Childhood Development centres grew from 93 to 116.
- Twenty-two children were assessed and enrolled at Amitofo School in Okahandja.

There is a limited budget allocation for activities, and the lack of shelters or safe spaces for children remains a significant concern. To address these challenges, emergency funding for school needs should be increased, school hostels should be constructed for Gobabis primary schools, and liquor outlets should be regulated.

**The Okorukambe Constituency:**

Established and revived several Water Point Associations and Committees during the 2024/2025 financial year. To strengthen their operational capacity, training sessions were conducted for elected committee members. These training focused on essential management skills; including bookkeeping, water point maintenance, and budgeting, to ensure sustainable and forthright management of water infrastructure in the community. The continuation of training for Water Point Committees remains a priority to ensure the sustainable management of water resources.

**Honourable Chairperson,  
Honourable members,**

### **The Ministry of Health and Social Services:**

- Successfully implemented the Health Promoting Schools Initiative in all 47 schools, achieving full coverage.
- On-site health programmes were conducted at 16 schools, benefiting 1,189 learners.

To improve service delivery, inter-ministerial collaboration should be strengthened to enhance school-based health services.

### **The Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture:**

Improved significant infrastructure in the 2024/2025 financial year, across the Omaheke Region's schools, including:

- Construction of 18 emergency classrooms and 8 storerooms in 8 schools.
- Building of 6 ablution blocks at selected primary schools.
- Renovations valued at N\$3.4 million were implemented across multiple schools.
- Solar-powered borehole conversions completed at 3 schools, enhancing water access and sustainability.

### **The Witvlei Village Council:**

Had two classrooms constructed by August 26 to address overcrowding and improve the learning environment.

An ablution facility was also completed at Nossob Combined School as a joint initiative between the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, and NAMPORT, (valued at N\$600,000.00).

### **The Leonardville Village Council:**

Provided support to 20 students to attend tuition at the Gobabis Vocational Training Centre and assisted 15 students to pursue training at the Namibian Institute of Mining and Technology (NIMT).

### **Gobabis Vocational Training Centre (GVTC):**

- Now offers training in 7 vocational skill areas, expanded from 3 occupational areas since its inception in 2016.
- Leather Design Production & Manufacturing and Electrical General are the latest additions to the curriculum.
- GVTC won a Gold Medal in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning at the National Skills Competition in September 2023.
- A competitor from GVTC represented Namibia at the WorldSkills Competition in Lyon, France.
- Six trainees will represent GVTC at the 4th Biannual National Skills Competition in Swakopmund from the 22nd to the 27th of September 2025.

The Omaheke Regional Council will soon sign a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Namibia Training Authority (NTA), designating Gobabis Training Centre (GVTC) and COSDEC Omaheke as strategic partners for supplying technical skills for state projects in the region.

### **The Office of the President – Marginalised communities:**

- Supported the highest number of San learners from Omaheke in higher education to date, with a total of 33 students enrolled.
- Provided transport for 519 learners from San communities during weekends and school holidays to ensure continued access to education and family support.

Historical under-representation of San learners in higher education remains a challenge.

### **The Namibian Correctional Services:**

- Repaired 115 chairs and 225 tables for the Gobabis Project Primary School.

### **The Namibian Police:**

- Offered 4 police officers from the region to be part of a bachelor's degree programme in criminal justice in partnership with NUST.
- In total, 9 police officers are on study leave: 4 abroad, 5 in-country. The challenge is that this opportunity is limited to 13 officers only.

**Honourable Chairperson,  
Honourable members,**

### **5. Creative Industry**

Her Excellency, President Dr NNN views the creative industry as one of the main economic drivers with the potential to contribute to job creation particularly for the youth.

The Gobabis Vocational Training Centre (GVTC), in collaboration with the Office of the Governor for the Omaheke region, is launching a series of impactful initiatives aimed at supporting disadvantaged school-going learners in the area. These projects are designed to meet the urgent needs of learners by providing essential school items and attire.

- The Centre will produce 100 pairs of leather school shoes, which will be distributed to needy learners through the Office of the Regional Governor.
- Gobabis Vocational Training Centre offers training in Clothing Production and Leather Products Design and Manufacturing, equipping learners with practical, design-oriented skills relevant to fashion and craft-based entrepreneurship. Through these creative trades, combined with business development modules, the centre nurtures talent and promotes self-employment, enabling graduates to start their own creative businesses or contribute to local production.

This not only supports individual livelihoods but also stimulates the growth of the creative industry within the Omaheke region.

### **The Directorate of Information and Communication Technology**

Provides equipment needed to support creativity such as Sound systems at no cost to government offices and at a rate of N\$700.00 for the public and private sector.

The office recently received live streaming broadcasting equipment to support the Government Information Centre (GIC), which will be linked to the national GIC in Windhoek and stream content on the Omaheke MICT Facebook page.

### **The Otjinene Village Council**

Is in the process of developing its website, which will be officially launched during the first week of August 2025.

### **The Okorukambe Constituency**

- Spent a total of N\$105 000.00 to purchase different software planned for distribution to schools and a start-up computer café in Omitara Settlement.

The creative industry pillar is one with the least reported activities, which grants us an opportunity as a region to identify initiatives and grant support to grow the industry. One such platform along with others that could be a driver in this space is the Omaheke Arts and Craft Foundation. This platform, established by local artists and craftsmen in Omaheke, aims to enhance the artistic and creative potential of its members. The foundation seeks to showcase Omaheke's diverse cultural heritage through arts and crafts within

the region. The foundation has thus far developed a database that has a total of 133 people operating in various areas: visual arts, performing arts, crafts, beading, fashion design/styling, tailoring, poetry, photography, media arts, cultural dance, scientific arts and sculpting.

**Honourable Chairperson,  
Honourable members,**

### **Priority 6: Quality Health and Social Welfare**

*Health is our greatest wealth. It is only through collective action and sustained investment that we can foster a healthier Namibia for all.*

### **The Omaheke Regional Council -Directorate of Technical & Maintenance:**

Completed Projects for the 2024/2025 financial year:

- A storeroom at the Department of Works (in Gobabis was converted into toilets for N\$ 91,779.23.

### **Division of Gender Equality and Child Care Protection**

- Provided 585 children with psychosocial support.
- 443 beneficiaries received the Conditional Basic Income Grant (N\$600/month).
- 1,190 food parcels and 3,800 dignity kits distributed.
- 225 Orphaned and Vulnerable Children, 629 pensioners, 267 disabled individuals, and 347 funeral benefit recipients were supported.

The challenges include; only one privately owned children's home, which is currently full to capacity, and more children begging on streets. The way forward is to create more homes, get Farm Lusental operational, employ

more community healthcare workers, strengthen substance abuse rehabilitation programmes and implement positive parenting programmes.

### **The Office of the President – Marginalised communities Initiatives**

High levels of hunger within the communities and access to dignified burial services are major challenges. The way forward is to continue the Special Feeding Programme and formalise and continue the provision of burial support.

### **The Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination :**

- Successfully installed modern solar systems at numerous water points, improving reliability.
- Deliver emergency water supplies through tanker services when required.

The Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination will continue to deliver emergency water supplies via tanker services or borehole browsing as needed and repair pipe extraction and water tanker fleets, as well as continue the process of procuring new equipment and fleets to facilitate service delivery.

### **The Ministry of Health and Social Services**

- Achieved a 94% TB treatment success rate.
- Achieved 100% TB testing and ART initiation for co-infected patients.
- Reached 81% measles immunisation coverage.
- Completed 30+ infrastructure and equipment upgrades across clinics and hospitals, including sanitation, oxygen systems, diagnostic tools, cold storage, and power supply.
- Achieved 99% execution of allocated health budget.
- Oxygen and diagnostic equipment
- Laundry, autoclave, and incinerator servicing
- CCTV and fencing for security
- Plumbing, air conditioning, and cold storage installations
- Maternity and mortuary upgrades



**Honourable Chairperson,  
Honourable members,**

**The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism**

- Donated 655 kg of game meat (valued at N\$ 25,244.00) to old age homes, vulnerable children's homes, and kindergartens
- Distributed 600 kg of hippo meat among Otjombinde Conservancy members

**The Okorukambe Constituency**

Supported a soup kitchen in Omitara, which provides hot, nutritious meals to individuals and vulnerable communities.

**The Witvlei Village Council**

Extended the septic tank at the clinic, and a shade for sick people was erected at the clinic as well.

**In The Otjinene Village Council**

Otjinene Pharmacy and Medical Doctor are among the growing contributors to quality health through service delivery.

**The Gobabis Vocational Training Centre (GVTC)**

has an ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Services to refurbish 133 patient beds for Gobabis State Hospital to enhance healthcare delivery in the region.

**The Namibian Correctional Services**

- Conducted a mass Tuberculosis (TB) screening, with 198 inmates screened in the 2024/2025 financial year.
- The Gender-Based Violence (GBV) program is ongoing, with 37 offenders having successfully completed the program in the first quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year.
- A Restorative Justice Programme has been successfully implemented, with two cases mediated in the 2024/2025 financial year.
- The "Motivating Offenders to Re-Think Everything Programme" is planned for the 2025/2026 financial year to challenge anti-social thinking patterns among inmates.

### **The Namibian Police**

- The Omaheke Region is classified as a low-crime consumer region, with a decreased crime rate from 3313 in 2023 to 2617 in 2024. Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm is among the top 5 crimes. Crime tracking will continue through the Performance Management System (PMS).

**Honourable Chairperson,  
Honourable members,  
Now Moving on to the Final pillar...**

### **Priority 7: Land, Housing and Sanitation**

*Access to land, dignified housing, and proper sanitation remains fundamental to the wellbeing and development of our people in the Omaheke Region. The equitable use of land must go hand-in-hand with inclusive development.*

As part of the Omaheke Regional Council's vision to expand and upgrade Buitepos Settlement to the town council level as well as One Stop Border

Post, an adjacent farm to Buitepos measuring 8000 hectares has been purchased. The regional council's plan includes its longstanding intention to also elevate settlements such as Epukiro, Talismanus, and Aminuis to a town level while localities such as Drimiopsis, Eiseb 10, Benhur/Tsjaka to become Settlements.

- N\$ 1.4 million has been allocated to upgrade the Onyanga Informal settlement in Talismanus, work is due to start in August 2025. A total of N\$ 2 million has been allocated for the upgrade of Otjijarua village in Epukiro constituency and Otjiuaneho village in Otjinene constituency and Eiseb 10 in Otjombinde constituency . A total of N\$ 2.4 million has been allocated for formalisation of the Aminuis settlement.
- The council completed 30 Flushing toilets: 8 in Kalahari, 8 in Otjombinde, 8 in Okarukambe and 6 in Aminuis. Another 34 toilets were completed at Buitepos Settlement for a cost of 1.6 Million.
- 5 Houses were completed at Buitepos under the Build Together Programme, with an expected completion by October 2025 of 70 houses planned for Epukiro, Talismanus, and Aminuis.
- Through the financial assistance of Namwater Eleven (11) boreholes were drilled at Epukiro at the cost of N\$7.3 million which included the cost of a geological survey.
- A N\$6.2 million sewer pump station and oxidation pond was completed at Eiseb 10 in October 2024, while a 300m sewer line with 10 manholes was completed at Omitara settlement in September 2024.
- A 450m sewer line with 13 manholes is expected to be completed by August 2025 at Epukiro Post 3.
- A sewer reticulation project worth N\$ 21,000,000.00 at Witvlei Village, which will include a 400m<sup>3</sup>/ day sewer treatment plant and gravitational sewer reticulation lines is completed but awaiting to be electrified .
- In the Aminuis settlement 6 pump stations will be renovated by the end of 2025 at a cost of N\$450 000, whilst 3 pump stations are to be replaced due to technology changes.

Several challenges have been identified, including:

- The drilling of two boreholes in Ben Hur, costing N\$798,554, was unsuccessful and did not yield water, worsening the water crisis.

The planned initiatives to address current challenges include the following actions:

- A N\$21,000,000 sewer reticulation and treatment plant is being constructed in Witvlei, with completion expected in the third quarter of the current financial year.
- The Regional Council will drill two more boreholes in Ben Hur during the current financial year to address the water crisis.
- Two additional boreholes will be drilled in Eiseb 10 to ease the water shortage.
- An allocation of N\$1.77 million will be used to upgrade internal roads in Corridor 13, with construction starting in mid-August 2025.
- A new dumping site is being constructed in Omitara at a cost of N\$2 million to reduce environmental pollution.
- Construction of two new offices for the Ovambanderu and Maharero Royal Traditional Authorities is expected to be completed in Q4 of the current financial year.
- Renovation of the Batswana Ba Namibia Traditional Authority office in Aminius will be completed during Q3 of the current financial year.

### **The Division of Land**

Significant progress has been made in land rights and resettlement initiatives. A total of 356 customary land rights have been successfully registered.

Completed Housing Projects (2024/2025 FY) includes the :

- Renovation of a staff house in Tallismanis: N\$353,311.88
- Renovation, alteration, and fencing of a GRN Flat in Gobabis: N\$301,184.85

Completed Public Infrastructure & Sanitation Projects (2024/2025 FY):

- Renovation of Tallismanes Sub-Office: N\$487,264.42
- Maintenance (interlocks) at Gobabis Regional Office: N\$613,195.84
- Conversion of storeroom to an archive in Gobabis: N\$87,106.04

The main challenge faced is securing funding for planned projects, with three out of four projects for the 2025/2026 financial year currently on hold pending availability of funds from the Head Office.

### **Office of the President – Marginalised communities**

- Successfully installed water pipelines for San communities in Otjiuapehuri and Okatuuo. The lack of access to clean water, with communities being approximately 5 kilometres from existing boreholes is a challenge.

### **The Ministry of Health and Social Services**

The following health-related projects were completed during the first quarter of the 2025–2026 financial year:

- Serviced of DC9 Genset at Gobabis District Hospital: N\$21,194.50
- Repaired of Compressor 1 in the oxygen and vacuum plant at Gobabis District Hospital: N\$14,286.53
- Annual service of Drager Oxylog and spares for the ambulance: N\$32,157.06
- Overhaul of the Stamford alternator plant and generator service: N\$161,255.98
- Supplied and installation of a water cooler at Epako Clinic: N\$35,949.00
- Serviced of the X-ray machine at Gobabis District Hospital: N\$17,710.00
- Supplied and installation of a complete wall vacuum system at Gobabis District Hospital: N\$397,524.48

The way forward is to prioritise comprehensive sanitation upgrades in multiple health facilities (Gobabis, Epako, Witvlei), perimeter fencing, CCTV, and guard house construction at clinics. Planned renovations include :

- Housing Units for Independent Lower-Income Older Persons (HUILOP).
- Installation of water coolers and borehole drilling planned.
- Ablution renovations are scheduled at two major facilities.

### **The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism**

- Three dustbins were purchased for Waste Management Control; community clean-up campaigns were conducted regularly; and the construction of the conservancy office fence (N\$ 16,200.00 paid to 8 males, including one from the San community).

### **The Okorukambe Constituency**

- Electrification works commenced in Omitara Settlement and Du Plessis Farm during the 2024/2025 financial year, with further implementation planned for 2025/2026. Additionally, the Constituency identified and supported the successful drilling of six boreholes across various locations. These boreholes are fully operational and play a critical role in improving water access for rural communities, enhancing livelihoods and resilience against water scarcity.
- 8 km of the Du Plessis–Epukiro Road was completed in collaboration with Steen en Betone cc.

### **The Witvlei Village Council**

These were the key achievements recorded:

- Five toilets were completed at a cost of N\$139,874.50.
- A Section 77 water tank and six standpipes were erected, with four installed, at a cost of N\$333,594.00.
- The Community Hall was completed at a cost of N\$299,887.00.

### **The Otjinene Village Council**

- 30 residential erven were serviced under Phase 2 (including water and sewer reticulations) and made available for sale via closed bidding in March 2025.
- 12 potential landowners were identified and submitted for funding under the Decentralised Build Together Programme.
- 400 waste bins were procured to improve refuse collection.
- The Ozohambo Pump Station upgrade project is underway, valued at N\$2 million.
- Electrification of 250 shack dwellings was launched with a total budget of over N\$6,2 million; 47 houses were completed in 2024, and 23 are currently in progress.
- N\$1.7 million was allocated to land servicing in the 2024/2025 financial year.
- The municipality in Otjinene Village continues to face challenges, including a decline in residents' ability to pay for services, which has resulted in a NAMWATER debt of N\$12 million. Despite an amnesty campaign, persistent payment defaults have led to water disconnections; although 75 clients had their water reconnected, non-adherence to payment agreements remains an issue.
- The constituency will continue the implementation of land servicing and housing schemes, alongside promoting amnesty repayment initiatives such as the "pay and win" competition launched in January 2024.
- The Council continues to procure VIP toilets for the community.

### **The Leonardville Village Council**

secured N\$560,000.00 in funding to assist 7 beneficiaries with house construction.

- Appointed contractors to manufacture bricks and construct the houses.
- Received confirmation of additional funding amounting to over N\$1 million for 6 more beneficiaries.
- Completed surveying of all erven in Extension 1 at a cost of N\$301,624.88.

- Completed the valuation of all rateable properties for the 5-year period until 2027, at a cost of N\$400,000.00.
- Gravelled and interlocked 1.2 kilometres of the main road to Amraalsduin at a cost of N\$860,000.00.
- Finalised the Token Identification (TID) rollover for all prepaid water and electrical meters.
- The Council will continue the procurement and installation of VIP toilets to enhance sanitation facilities.
- The council is finalizing the layout planning for Extension 2, with an estimated budget of N\$ 300,000.00.

### **CENORED**

Successfully connected a total of 200 houses in the Omaheke Region during 2024/2025, with a total project value of over N\$3 million.

- House connections were completed in the following areas: Otjinene Town Council (72 houses), Okarumbu and Aminuis (53 houses), Dricops (20 houses), Du Plessis (20 houses), and Ozohambo (23 houses).

### **The Namibian Police**

Will be constructing a new police station and accommodation facilities at Epako Police Station. The tender process is completed but the construction is pending.

### **Gobabis Municipality**

The Municipality achieved the following milestones in solid waste management and housing development:

- Procured 650 wheelie bins, 10 skip containers, and a tractor with trailer at a cost of N\$ 1,588,495.00 to enhance solid waste removal and management efforts.
- Partnered with the Namibia Housing Action Group and the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia to formalize the Kanaan C informal settlement.



- Initiated re-blocking and pegging of the Kanaan C settlement according to the drafted layout plan.
- Allocated land in Nossobville to the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia to provide housing for two savings groups.
- Completed 35 houses in Epako under the “Build Together” project.
- Completed 57 houses in Epako and Freedom Square under the “Shack Dwellers Federation (Promise Land)” project.

The Municipality continues to face several challenges in service delivery:

- An aging fleet used for waste disposal is hindering operational efficiency.
- Persistent vandalism and theft of fencing infrastructure at the three cemeteries compromise safety and maintenance efforts.

The Municipality will continue:

- Procuring a fully equipped skip container truck in the current financial year to address challenges related to the aging waste disposal fleet,
- Allocating budget provisions to improve fencing infrastructure at the three cemeteries,

And;

- Allocating land to the Development Workshop of Namibia for the development of approximately 250 residential erven in Nossobville, with development expected to commence during the current financial year.

**Honourable Chairperson,**  
**Honourable members,**  
**Now Reporting on**  
**Projects under the office of the Governor**

To address malnutrition and poverty in the region, The office of the Governor in partnership with Headstart Kids developed the Omaheke Integrated Community Empowerment & Nutrition Initiative (OICENI) an initiative that

adopts a multi-phased, five-year approach combining medical, social, and economic interventions.

- Year 1 focuses on baseline mobilisation through stakeholder mapping, community consultations, and the establishment of local structures, while initiating supplementation for women and children.
- Years 2–3 will scale infrastructure, launch a food processing facility, expand school feeding programmes, and establish agricultural co-ops.
- Years 4–5 will promote sustainability by integrating processed foods into school feeding tenders, ensuring co-ops repay inputs with produce, and transitioning income-generating projects to community ownership.

The interventions are structured across four areas: (1) Prevention & Screening, including expanded supplementation, community outreach, and antenatal care; (2) Medical, with upgrades to Omaheke Hospital's paediatric ward, SAM training for hospital staff, and expanded mobile outreach; (3) Social, involving community champions, outreach, and regulation of high-risk hotspots; and (4) Economic, with sustainable gardens, a feed mill, a fortified food processing plant, and skills training.

Immediate implementation requires N\$3,185,000.00, while capital investment for the feed and fortification plants amounts to N\$14,000,000.00, bringing the total projected cost to N\$17,185,000.00.

### **Farm Nuwehoop**

Farm NuweHoop has made notable progress in agricultural development and community upliftment. Over 1 km<sup>2</sup> of the main farm was fenced, and a borehole was converted from windmill to solar at a cost of over N\$70,000.

- The farm developed three 15x30m greenhouses, a chicken coop, a goat kraal, and acquired essential tools, equipment, and water tanks. Through donations and partnerships, it received 200 chickens, 25 dairy goats, 10 Boer goats, 30 rabbits, and 100 fruit trees.
- Successful pilot harvests included carrots, beetroots, tomatoes, and spinach, with 10,000 onions, 5,000 cabbages, and more planted in June 2025 for a mid-September harvest.

- The project, supported by Suncrest Farming Solutions, currently benefits over 35 youth and has employed over 50 locals.
- A training session was held for 45 participants, and the production has supported soup kitchens and the Epako old age home.
- With access to 250 ha of municipal land secured, the way forward includes hosting a Farm NuweHoop Open Day and establishing a municipal close corporation to ensure long-term sustainability.

### **The Omaheke Innovation and Incubation Centre (The O-Space)**

The O-Space is an Innovation and Business incubation facility which nurtures entrepreneurs in Omaheke. The Centre received N\$1.5 million from the Social Security Development Fund, the project incubated seven vocational graduates from Omaheke, providing each with N\$50,000 in seed capital, five short entrepreneurial courses, 12 months of coaching, business registration, and banking support.

An impact survey was conducted to guide future implementation. The way forward includes securing sustainable funding, expanding training, strengthening monitoring and evaluation, and developing a targeted proposal to fund a second intake of the vocational market.

### **Genesis**

The Office of the Governor has partnered with Genesis, an organisation focused on combating hunger and malnutrition in Namibia. The Project has significantly advanced efforts to combat acute and chronic malnutrition among children under five and vulnerable households. Assessments across 12 locations resulted in the registration of over 800 children within the soup kitchens. Currently, there is a reduction in Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases in the region. Communities receiving regular Genesis meals saw a 20% decrease in chronic malnutrition. Referral success improved from 40% to 60%, indicating stronger collaboration between soup kitchens and local clinics.

### **ERZGEBIRGKLINIKUM Namibia- Germany Partnership Program**

The office of the Governor has partnered with ERZGEBIRGKLINIKUM, a landmark collaboration between German medical institutions and the

Omaheke region of Namibia. It provides full scholarships for Namibian youth in the Omaheke Region to pursue careers in healthcare, medical sciences, and IT through a tailored training and relocation pathway in Germany. The initiative received over 200 applications from the youth , and over 98 candidates were interviewed. Over 60 candidates have been approved for the current term and have started German language classes in Gobabis and Windhoek.

**Honourable Chairperson,  
Honourable members,**

### **Closing Remarks**

As I bring this year's State of the Region Address to a close, I am reminded that behind every statistic and every programme are real people. These are families, elders, young people, and children whose lives are shaped by the decisions we make and the actions we take.

This year's theme calls on us to lead with purpose and to place people at the centre of everything we do. This we cannot achieve by continuing to operate as we have in the past. I implore all leaders and stakeholders in the Omaheke region, my office included, to do away with working in silos, as together we can build a positive culture of public service delivery. Let us serve our people with true humility.

Let our work be guided by the National Development Plan 6 which reflects the 7 priority areas, on which all reporting will be based.

As we continue to celebrate the life well lived of our departed Founding Father, the leader of our Revolution, I am tempted to repeat the quote I made at the departure of our third President, Cde Hage Geingob—I am tempted to repeat the words of Walter Lippmann, who once said, *"The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on."*

I thank you.

