



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF OMAHEKE REGION

**STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS
BY**

**HONOURABLE PIJOO NGANATE.
GOVERNOR OF THE OMAHEKE REGION**

**GOBABIS
OMAHEKE REGION**

**THEME: “UNLOCKING OMAHEKE’S INDUSTRIAL
POTENTIAL THROUGH MANUFACTURING AND MINING”**

There is a village in Namibia, in the Omaheke Region, Otjinene to be specific, called Okorukurure, which loosely translates to "the razor" or "blade." This village consists of about 50 households and is inhabited by a community of mostly farmworkers and former farmworkers. These people live in peace with one another and share one thing in common: food security and self-sustainability.

Okorukurure is not an ordinary village; it is one that can become a game changer in our drive towards food security and a catalyst in realizing the dream of our President, Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, in taking agriculture as an enabler in fighting hunger, poverty, unemployment, and restoring the dignity of our people. We cannot live dignified lives as long as we are fed by other people.

Every household in Okorukurure has a sizeable backyard garden under irrigation as well as a rain-fed garden. Their produce ranges from fruit trees such as lemons, oranges, naartjies, and bananas to traditional vegetables such as onions, carrots, and chilies. Okorukurure and many other villages have given me hope that there is indeed a brighter future for Omaheke and that my dream of ensuring no child goes to bed on an empty stomach is attainable.

Okorukurure is also a testament to the fact that we can no longer be comfortable with high levels of poverty and inequality. The President's dream of shared prosperity is not a far-fetched dream but indeed attainable.

I am in agreement with Her Excellency the President that we are too few to be poor. I also agree with the sentiment echoed by Her Excellency's mentor, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, who stated that there are enough resources in every state to feed its people, but the problem lies in how those resources are distributed.

Allow me to report on all the achievements, challenges, and opportunities that the region has faced for the 2025/2026 fiscal year in fulfillment of the mandate conferred by Article 110A, subsections 5 and 6, of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, in alignment with the National Development Plan 6 (NDP6) and the SWAPO Party Manifesto.

The theme for this year's State of the Region Address is a bold one: **"Unlocking Omaheke's Industrial Potential Through Manufacturing and Mining."** It is a theme that transitions us firmly from the planning stages to aggressive execution. By focusing on primary manufacturing and mining, we look to build an industrial foundation that complements our agricultural strength, ensuring we add value locally to our raw resources.

1. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Office of the Governor serves as the primary incubator for the socioeconomic partnerships required to spark regional growth. By securing strategic investments in rural infrastructure, food security, and primary economic support, the Office of the Governor is actively laying the stabilizing foundations upon which our broader manufacturing and mining ambitions will thrive.

1.1 Partnership with the Swakop Uranium Foundation

The Office of the Governor secured a landmark three-year partnership with the Swakop Uranium Foundation to support the development of Farm Nuwehoop and community infrastructure projects. During the first year of the partnership, the Foundation committed N\$3 million to infrastructure development and agricultural production. By the end of three years, the Foundation has budgeted approximately N\$6 million to truly advance food security and feeding programs in the region. This partnership represents one of the most significant private sector investments supporting food security and community development in the Omaheke Region.

As part of the Swakop Uranium Foundation investment, major infrastructure improvements are being implemented at Farm Nuwehoop. These include:

- The rehabilitation of two boreholes and water dams.
- The expansion and improvement of greenhouses.
- The construction of a chicken coop production facility, a rabbit production unit, and a goat kraal with the capacity to accommodate approximately 800 goats.

These developments will significantly enhance the farm's production capacity and contribute to sustainable food security initiatives in the region. Additionally, 100 Boer goats were supplied to Farm Nuwehoop, bringing us closer to fulfilling our vision of providing one glass of milk per child per day.

Furthermore, a total of 50 youth will benefit from youth plots at Farm Nuwehoop, enabling them to gain firsthand agricultural experience and create food security for their households. A total of three staff members have been employed on the farm, with more to be added in the near future.

The partnership also includes vital renovations to the Epako Old Age Home and five Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres. Thus far, renovations are underway at the Old Age Home as well as the Light of the Children centre.

Additionally, the Old Age Home will receive new furniture to create a comfortable and dignified space for our pensioners.

1.2 HeadstartKids Namibia Climate-Resilient Child Nutrition and Essential Services Initiative

During the reporting period, the Office of the Governor strengthened its partnership with HeadStartKids Namibia by developing a five-year Climate-Resilient Child Nutrition and Essential Services Initiative, with Omaheke identified as one of eight priority regions for implementation.

The initiative seeks to reduce child malnutrition while strengthening climate-resilient essential services through an integrated approach combining child nutrition, renewable energy, healthcare support, and community resilience. Planned interventions include:

- The provision of fortified meals and micronutrient supplementation for children aged 6 to 60 months.
- Regular growth monitoring and deworming programmes.
- Strengthened referral systems and the solarisation of priority clinics, ECD centres, schools, and community feeding points.
- The installation of refrigeration systems for vaccines and nutritional supplements, solar water pumping systems, and digital monitoring tools.
- Capacity building for local institutions, technicians, caregivers, and community stakeholders to ensure long-term sustainability.

The next phase will focus on finalizing implementation and partnership frameworks, mobilizing financial and technical resources, identifying priority facilities for the initial rollout, establishing regional coordination structures, and strengthening local capacity to ensure effective long-term ownership.

Once implemented, the initiative is expected to significantly improve child nutrition and food security, strengthen maternal and child health services, enhance the reliability of public services through renewable energy, and increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to drought and climate shocks. It will also create employment and skills development opportunities for local technicians and community workers while strengthening collaboration between government, development partners, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

At the national level, this initiative supports Namibia's efforts to combat child malnutrition, strengthens climate adaptation, and contributes directly to achieving Vision 2030, the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.3 Support to Schools

The Office funded tuition and registration fees totaling N\$24,263.23 for students attending NAMCOL and the Eureka Medical Institute. This directly complements a separate partnership program that provided tuition to institutions of Higher Learning, with the Rhani group of companies sponsoring an additional 40 students earlier this year at the cost of N\$ 106 000.00.

Additionally, the office provided N\$9,989.00 worth of sports uniforms to Vergenoeg Primary School, equipping their netball, volleyball, and soccer teams. An allocation of N\$30,000.00 was made toward vital infrastructure development and upliftment projects at Epukiro Senior Secondary School and Noasabis Primary School.

1.4 SME Development and Youth Entrepreneurship

The office directed N\$98,476.68 toward purchasing equipment for youth-owned businesses, supporting various youth initiatives, and procuring services from youth-led enterprises, ensuring local capital directly stimulates the grassroots economy.

1.5 Community Upliftment and Social Welfare

An amount of N\$71,825.95 was allocated across various community support and social projects. This included:

- Supporting chess development for two learners.
- Supplying crucial furniture to Voetspore ECD.
- Providing building materials for the Nossobville cemetery.
- Equipping the St. Joel Apostolic Healing Mission with a sound system.
- Supporting the re-integration program for children living and working on the streets, implemented through the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Child Welfare.

1.6 Additional Support and Agricultural Initiatives

The Office of the Governor invested in various agricultural initiatives to improve food security and nutrition across the region. A key intervention was supporting the Epukiro Post 3 Clinic Nutrition Garden by procuring seeds, irrigation systems, shading infrastructure, and land preparation, and providing technical assistance. This project contributes to improved nutrition outcomes, particularly for children under five, TB patients, and people living with HIV, with the sponsorship valued at N\$22,011.75.

In terms of housing and construction support, the Office procured 240 bags of cement to assist the Shack Dwellers Federation with housing projects in Witvlei, Omitara, and Goreses, with a portion of the bags allocated to the Otjivero Combined School for the construction of a netball court.

Furthermore, the office sustained the Regional Soup Kitchen Support Programme, distributing food parcels over a three-month period to more than 37 soup kitchens across the region following consignments from the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Gender Equality, and the Namibia Revenue Agency (NAMRA). At present, we are rolling out sanitary pads and stationery to schools, with four schools having already benefited. The stationery was a generous donation by a son of the soil, our very own Mr. Monty Tjozongoro.

Additional community infrastructure allocations included:

Supporting the Okombomi Women's Project (a group of 10 women) in Epukiro with a cement mixer valued at N\$24,263.00. This intervention aimed to increase the enterprise's capacity and production, as it had previously mixed materials manually. The group produces around 200 bricks per day, creating sustainable employment for women.

KEY SECTORS

To unlock our true industrial capability, our primary economic sectors must transform from trading raw commodities to anchoring sophisticated processing networks. This pillar details our transition toward industrialization. By shifting from raw farming to localized agro-processing, such as our planned peanut processing plant, and preparing for advanced mining operations through technical consultations on the Leonardville Uranium Project, Omaheke is directly turning the regional theme into an operational reality.

1 Agriculture

According to the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA), agriculture remains the backbone of our regional economy, employing 39.0% of all employed persons, making it the largest employment sector in Omaheke. Skilled agricultural occupations account for 28.6% of total employment in the region.

The Omaheke Region received sufficient rainfall in the 2024/2025 cropping season after a prolonged, consecutive three-year drought that succeeded the COVID-19 period. Many areas in Otjombinde, Epukiro, Otjinene, and Okorukambe received rainfall exceeding 500 mm, while Gobabis, Kalahari, and Aminius recorded average rainfall above 300 mm. Grazing has recovered substantially, and livestock conditions are good to very good across the region.

Livestock marketing has declined, but market prices remain steady despite the challenges posed by Lumpy Skin Disease and Foot and Mouth Disease outbreaks that hit large feedlots in South Africa. It must be noted that the past rainy season recorded a devastating Lumpy Skin outbreak of a magnitude never before witnessed in Omaheke.

1.1 Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension and Engineering Services

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform continues to implement the Dryland Crop Production Programme and the Comprehensive Conservation Agriculture Programme in the Omaheke Region. Under this project, the total area under crop production increased from 500 to above 800 hectares this year, of which 600 hectares were directly assisted via government tractors and indirectly through private tractor subsidies (excluding commercial areas). Many crop fields saw maize and cowpea yields perform well, though pests and diseases, particularly the Fall Armyworm and Armoured Crickets, significantly decreased final yields. The region utilized 17 tractors for the first time, employing 17 tractor drivers and providing additional employment to 118 Namibians who participated in seven weeding groups.

Under the National Horticulture Support and Value Chain Development Project, the region provided input subsidies to 169 farmers to purchase seeds, fertilizers, shade nets, poles, irrigation materials, tanks, tank stands, borehole water pumps, and pesticides. In addition, 355 farmers were trained in horticulture production.

With respect to livestock, Omaheke received 420 small-stock units (mainly goats), which were distributed to 20 needy farmers in communal areas, funded through a

delayed allocation from the 2023/2024 expropriation budget. These small stock assets are to be cared for and rotated to other needy farmers every three years within each implementing constituency.

24 farmers benefited from the Poultry Value Chain Development Scheme, with an additional 36 receiving training in chicken production. Seventeen farmers also benefited from the Dairy Value Chain Development Project this year, with subsidies covering the purchase of production stock, veterinary medicines, feed, machinery, and equipment.

To encourage commercialization and crop diversification, the region hosted a two-day Crop Farmers Fair at Ovinjuru Village in the Epukiro Constituency. This annual event rotates among constituencies to raise awareness of food production and processing in rural areas. Other crop day initiatives included the earlier Otjinene and Otjimati crop fairs, with an upcoming fair scheduled for Tallismanus from 17 to 19 July 2026.

1.2 Manufacturing Plants

One of the key priorities of the eighth administration is establishing manufacturing plants in each region of our republic. During the Prime Minister's visit to the region in May 2026, the viability of establishing a regional peanut processing plant was deliberated. Given the substantial number of local peanut farmers in Omaheke, this presents an immediate opportunity for industrial agro-processing and local value addition.

The plant will add value by producing plumpy nuts, peanut butter, and related products. The Office of the Governor is currently engaging strategic partners to identify a suitable site for the plant and is in discussions with potential donors.

This planned initiative directly embodies our regional theme, **“Unlocking Omaheke’s Industrial Potential through Manufacturing and Mining.”** By transitioning from raw farming to localized agro-processing, this plant serves as a tangible driver of our manufacturing ambitions, transforming agricultural output into high-value industrial products while creating sustainable economic opportunities. Additionally, these peanuts can be processed into specialized nutritional supplements, such as plumpy nuts, to directly combat child malnutrition in our clinics.

To accelerate this initiative, my office and the regional leadership undertook an official benchmarking and resource-mobilization mission to Pretoria, South Africa,

from 3-9 May 2026. We visited manufacturing plants of a similar nature and are currently engaged in advanced talks with these companies to establish a collaborative venture in the Omaheke Region.

1.3 Leonardville Uranium Project

Headspring Investments is currently exploring an In-Situ Leach (ISL) uranium project near Leonardville, offering significant economic and employment opportunities for the Omaheke Region. To safeguard the vital Stampriet Transboundary Aquifer, the Namibian government requested independent technical consultations from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), whose expert delegation visited the site in February 2026. Following this expert fact-finding mission, the state will base its final environmental clearance decision strictly on the resulting scientific data submitted by the IAEA.

1.4 Directorate of Forestry

The Directorate of Forestry spent 235 days on law enforcement during the 2025/2026 financial year. However, law enforcement activities, such as setting up roadblocks, conducting farm inspections, and conducting patrols to curb illegal activities, remain a challenge because regional offices lack reliable, roadworthy vehicles.

The Directorate issued a total of 7,630 permits to facilitate the movement of forest products such as charcoal and firewood. This represents an increase over the previous year, particularly in transport permits, indicating growing interest among farmers in venturing into firewood and charcoal production. Other permits issued included harvesting, exporting, and marketing permits; no import or transit permits were issued. The government must provide consistent support for farmers to properly venture into this sector.

Fewer forest products were confiscated during the review period. This is primarily attributed to resource limitations, including a lack of roadworthy vehicles, unreliable fuel supplies, and delayed head office approvals for staff Subsistence and Traveling (S&T) allowances and remunerative overtime.

A decline in both charcoal and firewood production was observed:

- Charcoal: The region produced 46,762 tonnes, down from 99,019 tonnes produced during the 2024/2025 financial year.

- Firewood: The region produced 78,828 tonnes, down from 82,373 tonnes produced in the 2024/2025 cycle.
- Droppers: Increased from 285,140 to 370,990 pieces harvested.
- Poles: Increased from 48,832 in the 2024/2025 financial year to 50,928 during the 2025/2026 financial year.

The Directorate sold 861 seedlings from the Government Nursery and donated 60 seedlings to various schools, government offices, and churches. Firewood was also donated to schools and soup kitchens providing meals to vulnerable children to help mitigate malnutrition. Total revenue generated from seedling sales and permit issuance amounted to N\$800,827.00.

Veld fires remain a major threat. Pockets of outbreaks were recorded across the Otjombinde, Otjinene, Epukiro, Aminius, and Kalahari Constituencies, resulting in the loss of property, livestock, and wildlife. Communities are continually cautioned through media platforms about the irresponsible use of fire.

Beyond transportation constraints, the Directorate faces institutional challenges because its functions have not yet been decentralized from the head office. The containment of veld fires is further hampered by uncoordinated efforts and the lack of a comprehensive Regional Veld Fire Management Strategy. Topographical factors and limited water availability in certain areas also impede firefighting operations, resulting in the loss of vast grazing lands.

1.5 Epukiro Constituency Office

To contribute to increased food security at the constituency level, the Epukiro Constituency Office supported local farmers with goats and cattle totaling N\$204,002.00, utilized through VAT refunds.

1.6 Okorukambe Constituency Office

During the 2025/2026 financial year, the Okorukambe Constituency Office supported several initiatives:

- The establishment of a Pig Production Project at Du Plessis Farm to promote sustainable livelihoods in rural communities.
- The Skoonheid Community Garden is transforming underutilized spaces into productive areas.
- The establishment of a Green Scheme Project at Summerdown, where a borehole was successfully drilled across the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026

financial years; further implementation awaits the 2026/2027 budget allocation.

In the current financial period, the Constituency Office, in collaboration with the Directorate of Agricultural Production, Extension and Engineering Services, plans to complete gardening support projects across various areas, including Witvlei, Omitara, Du Plessis Farm, Skoonheid, and Epukiro RC for the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, and crops.

1.7 Otjombinde Constituency Office

The Office of the Prime Minister supported the Otjombinde Community Garden by rehabilitating two boreholes, installing a solar-powered water system, fencing, and constructing a water tank stand and security guard houses. This intervention aims to improve water access for agricultural activities and enhance local food production. The garden directly supports 80 youth through a centralized cooperative framework.

2. SPORTS

While sports and creative expression drive social cohesion, they also represent a crucial economic engine for youth empowerment. In an industrializing economy, sports infrastructure projects serve as a vital training ground for structural project management, local construction employment, and regional commercial integration. Investing millions into modern sports fields across our constituencies ensures our youth develop the teamwork, discipline, and physical health required to step into our region's expanding industrial workforce.

2.1 Regional Sports Achievements

Sports remain a vital tool for youth development, social cohesion, and regional pride. I am pleased to report that both the Omaheke Football and Netball teams represented our region with distinction at the 2026 Namibian Newspaper Cup. The teams displayed exemplary attitude, teamwork, and determination, showcasing the immense talent within our constituencies.

2.2 Basic Sports Facilities and Infrastructure Development

The Namibian government has delivered on its commitment to establish sports infrastructure to support the creative and athletic industries, with a target of constructing 121 sports fields nationwide by 2030.

To that end, Tallismanus and Otjinene have been identified for the construction of regional stadiums, with a budget of N\$10 million per field. This presents an opportunity for our athletes to flourish while uniting the general public through fitness. Groundbreaking ceremonies for both facilities took place in mid-March 2026. Topographical surveys, Bills of Quantities (BOQs), land surveys, and architectural drawings have been completed for both sites.

The Tallismanus Sports Facility is making great progress, with the perimeter fencing fully completed by the contractor, who has also submitted itemized costing for the next phases. Recommendation letters for both contractors have been finalized, and proposed contracts have been drawn up, with formal signing scheduled soon. The authorized signatories on these accounts include the Chief Regional Officer (CRO), the Director of Finance, and the Director of Education, with the Deputy Director in the Governor's Office to be added soon.

The Epukiro Constituency Office

With the aim of enhancing grassroots sports development, we presented netball kits and a school flag valued at N\$7,524.14 to Omuhaturua Primary School under constituency-driven targeted programs.

Additional sports development investments during the period included:

- The Office of the Governor donated 60 tracksuits and 48 backpacks valued at N\$29,000.00 to regional players participating in the Newspaper Cup in Keetmanshoop in April 2026.
- The Municipality of Gobabis undertook the rehabilitation of Legare Sports Complex Field A, with construction currently 75% complete. Funded through the Municipal Budget, this ongoing project aims to upgrade public recreational spaces, with the official opening set as a priority for the 2026/2027 fiscal year.

2.3 Educational and Planning Integration

Under the infrastructure plan managed by the Directorate of Education, Innovation, Sports, Youth, Arts and Culture, the new N\$106 million Drimiopsis Hostel Development project explicitly includes the construction of dedicated sports fields to promote physical education and extracurricular activities for learners.

3. YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

An under skilled workforce is the greatest bottleneck to industrialization. To unlock Omaheke's manufacturing and mining potential, we must actively transition our youth from economic bystanders to technically capable operators and entrepreneurs. Through extensive training in business skills, STEM fields, vocational courses, and direct credit schemes, this pillar outlines how the region is transforming its youth demographic into a highly productive asset ready to fuel our industrial future.

3.1 Directorate of Youth Development Initiatives

The Directorate executed several targeted youth development and economic empowerment initiatives during the reporting period:

- **Namibia Youth Credit Scheme (NYCS):** Reached 74 youth beneficiaries with mobilization, entrepreneurship training, and the formal signing of loan agreements, utilizing an allocation of N\$557,160.00 for direct loan disbursements.
- **Youth Cooperatives:** One youth cooperative was formally established and registered with the Division of Cooperatives, which included the formulation of institutional by-laws and targeted management training for 20 youth members.
- **Specialized Agricultural Training:** The Directorate completed specialized training in mushroom production for 13 youth beneficiaries to establish a regional mushroom project for local income generation.
- **UNICEF Upshift Programme:** Delivered intensive entrepreneurship training to 25 UPSHIFTERS and provided material and equipment support to an entrepreneur from a previous cohort, utilizing N\$128,829.20 for equipment procurement and N\$153,447.00 for training operations via UNICEF funding.
- **Skillz4Girls Project:** In partnership with UNICEF, the Directorate completed a curriculum workshop that sensitized adolescent girls on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) fields, encouraging vulnerable girls to enroll in technical courses, backed by an allocation of N\$153,905.57.
- **Life Skills Training:** Reached 54 adolescent girls, boys and young women/men through interactive workshops focused on comprehensive life skills.
- **UN Women Empowerment Project:** In partnership with UN Women, the Directorate reached 190 adolescent girls, boys, and young women/men with

psychosocial support, economic empowerment training, and community engagement, utilizing an allocation of N\$419,112.49, inclusive of operational training and business toolkits.

- National Youth Service Enrollment: Formally enrolled 31 trainees at the Berg Aukas Youth Training Centre and 8 trainees at the Kai//Ganaxab Youth Training Centre.

3.2 Local Authority and Constituency Support

Concurrently, the Epukiro Constituency continued to invest in youth development through targeted improvements to education, sports infrastructure, and small-business support. To support local entrepreneurship and economic diversification, specialized tyre repair equipment was provided to the Kamuhenuene SME Project at a cost of N\$22,527.00 to strengthen a small enterprise.

4. QUALITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Education is the ultimate foundation of socio-economic transformation. A literacy rate that lags in rural areas or an underperforming school system directly impacts our future economic competitiveness.

4.1 Regional Educational Profile and Literacy

Education remains a key pillar for the socio-economic transformation of the Omaheke Region. According to the 2023 Population and Housing Census conducted by the Namibia Statistics Agency, the regional literacy rate among persons aged 15 years and above stands at 76 percent. Literacy levels remain significantly higher in urban areas (84.7%) than in rural areas (68.8%), highlighting the continuous need to expand educational opportunities into our rural communities.

School attendance remains strong among school-age children, with enrolment rates highest among children aged 7 to 14 years. Early Childhood Development (ECD) participation stands at 11.7 percent for children aged 0 to 5 years, indicating significant potential for the further expansion of early learning services.

4.2 Improving Learner Performance

The Directorate of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture continues to prioritize quality education across all educational phases, from primary schooling to the Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Advanced

Subsidiary (NSSCAS) level. Learner performance has shown a steady, improving trajectory, particularly in foundational literacy and numeracy.

Key operational metrics include:

- An average promotion rate of 80 percent was achieved in both the Primary and Senior Secondary phases, reflecting encouraging progress in teaching and learning outcomes.
- The Junior Secondary Phase recorded an average promotion rate of 63.8 percent, highlighting an academic area requiring continuous structural intervention.
- The region successfully maintained its national academic ranking at 12th position over the past two years, while the NSSCAS results recorded a remarkable improvement, moving from 8th to 5th position nationally.
- Epukiro Secondary School achieved an outstanding 4th national ranking in the NSSCAS examinations, demonstrating the region's growing academic excellence and providing a clear benchmark for other schools.

To systematically address the shortage of qualified Setswana language teachers, the Directorate initiated a targeted teacher training programme through which seven Namibian students pursued specialized education degrees in Botswana. All seven graduates have successfully completed their studies and have since been deployed to schools within the Omaheke Region.

4.3 Investment in Educational Infrastructure

The Directorate implemented several multi-million-dollar infrastructure development projects aimed at creating safe, modern, and conducive learning environments. New classroom blocks and ablution facilities were completed at a total cost of N\$319,915,635.70 at the following schools:

- Eiseb Primary School (Otjombinde Constituency)
- Helena Primary School (Otjombinde Constituency)
- Gustav Kandji Secondary School (Otjinene Constituency)
- Epukiro Post 3 Secondary School (Epukiro Constituency)
- Omuhaturua Primary School (Epukiro Constituency)

In addition, during the 2025/2026 financial year, specialized classroom blocks incorporating internal toilets and storerooms were completed at a total cost of N\$4,716,039.60 at the following institutions:

- Khoadawes Primary School (Gobabis Constituency)
- Ben van der Walt Primary School (Gobabis Constituency)
- Usiel Ndjavera Primary School (Otjinene Constituency)
- Chief Sophia Jacob Primary School (Aminuis Constituency)

4.4 Strengthening Early Childhood Development

The Division of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication, and Child Welfare recorded significant progress in expanding regional ECD services. Total ECD enrolment increased from 1,331 to 1,651 learners across 114 centres. This growth is largely attributed to the successful introduction of nutritional feeding programmes across all ECD centres, which has drastically improved daily attendance and encouraged greater participation among young children.

4.5 Skills Development and Capacity Building

The region continued to invest in skills development programmes that improve educational outcomes, promote employability, and strengthen community resilience:

- **Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) Programme:** Successfully implemented in Omaheke schools during the financial year under review. Comprehensive assessment results showed that the proportion of learners unable to read declined dramatically from 54.1 percent in Term 2 to 28.1 percent following the implementation of the programme. This remarkable achievement earned the Omaheke Region formal recognition as one of the best-performing government-integrated regions among the ten regions implementing the programme nationwide.
- **Library Services:** Hosted the National Readathon and successfully provided basic computer skills training to 76 community members, effective study skills training for secondary school learners, and vocational skills development training to 170 community members to promote self-employment.
- **Women's Economic Empowerment:** In support of women's financial independence, the Division of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Child Welfare funded 21 women from all seven constituencies to undertake an advanced basic sewing course conducted by the Gobabis Vocational Training Centre.

- **Land Allocations for Education:** The Gobabis Municipality allocated two hectares of land to the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture for the construction of a new secondary school, with construction operations currently underway.

5. HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

A resilient industrial economy requires a healthy, secure, and socially stable workforce. Malnutrition, unreliable hospital infrastructure, and gaps in child welfare protection directly undermine community stability and economic productivity. This pillar outlines our massive interventions in health infrastructure.

5.1 Municipal and Regional Health Initiatives

The Gobabis Municipality achieved approximately 80% business registration and compliance through rigorous environmental health inspections and consultations, improving public health compliance using its operational budget.

In terms of social infrastructure, the Light for the Children Foundation was formally allocated 2,980 m² of land in Epako to construct a dedicated center for persons with disabilities, with town planning and zoning processes currently underway.

During the 2025/2026 financial year, the Directorate of Youth Development implemented various social development, entrepreneurship, and economic empowerment initiatives aligned with the Quality Health and Social Welfare Pillar of national development plans. Notable progress was made in promoting youth well-being: 174 out-of-school youth received comprehensive life skills training covering sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, and economic strengthening, enhancing the resilience and socio-economic well-being of young people in the region.

5.2 Ministry of Health and Social Services Infrastructure Upgrades

During the 2025/2026 financial year, the Ministry of Health and Social Services made significant progress in strengthening health infrastructure across the Omaheke Region through maintenance, renovation, and rehabilitation projects to improve the safety and reliability of healthcare delivery.

Key infrastructure milestones include:

- Installed and commissioned a new 350kVA back-up power generator set valued at N\$ 1,481,659.35 through National Level funding.
- Procured essential electrical materials totaling N\$ 184,377.42 to stabilize the main hospital and all peripheral health facilities.
- Rehabilitated the main entrance gate at the Gobabis District Hospital under a targeted N\$ 35,575.45 budget line.
- Deployed N\$ 149,140.75 for the procurement and installation of washing lines and extensive glazing works at the main hospital.
- Invested N\$ 397,424.48 at the Regional Office and Epako Primary Health Care for new windows, removing damaged floor tiles, plumbing, and interlocks.
- Completed minor renovations of the central ablution facility at Epako Clinic under an allocated budget line of N\$ 347,013.54.
- Invested N\$ 85,796.75 to upgrade the critical sewer line system connected to the oxidation pond at Eiseb Primary Health Care Clinic.
- Allocated N\$ 102,193.55 to execute minor renovations of the Doctor's Flat situated at the Otjinene Health Care Centre.
- Expended N\$ 46,449.29 for the emergency removal, replacement of a damaged sewer line, and unblocking of the main manhole at Epukiro Primary Health Care Clinic.
- Constructed a heavy-duty concrete platform and installed a premium IBR shade at the Port Health Trans Kalahari station at a cost of N\$ 217 327.78

Human resource capacity was significantly strengthened through the appointment of 92 new staff members across various professional categories, including medical officers, pharmacists, registered nurses, environmental health practitioners, social workers, technical personnel, and support staff.

The Ministry also continued to invest in workforce development by supporting seven health professionals pursuing further specialized studies in fields such as Health Promotion, Clinical Diagnosis, Nursing Science, Emergency Nursing Care, and Pediatric Nursing.

5.2.1 Operational Challenges and Future Interventions

Despite these achievements, the health sector continues to face critical challenges, including limited budget allocations for minor capital projects, aging health infrastructure, shortages of medical equipment, and insufficient transport for

preventive maintenance and referral services. The regional vehicle fleet remains under immense pressure, with only 16 of our 53 vehicles currently operational, while 34 vehicles are grounded due to inadequate funding for repairs and tyre replacements. To mitigate these transport gaps, the Ministry utilizes private ambulance services when necessary, collaborates with the Government Garage, and continues to advocate for a 52-seater bus to transport referral patients safely to Windhoek.

5.3 Severe Acute Malnutrition Statistical Overview

During the period from April 2025 to March 2026, the Paediatric and Children's Ward recorded critical data regarding the clinical admission and management of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) among children aged 6 to 59 months:

- **New Admissions:** A total of 329 new patients were admitted to the facility for specialized therapeutic care.
- **Returned or Defaulters:** The ward recorded 66 cases of patients who either returned for care or defaulted from their initial treatment regimens.
- **Discharges:** A total of 138 patients were successfully treated and discharged from the facility.
- **Absconded or Signed Consent to Leave:** There were 53 recorded instances where patients either absconded or left the facility after signing formal consent to leave against medical advice.
- **The mortality rate declined from 15% to 4% during the reporting period.**

Clinical Challenges and Institutional Recommendations

Socioeconomic and clinical outcomes were further limited by acute human resource constraints. There is currently a critical shortage of nursing personnel trained in the Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition, underscoring the need for targeted training initiatives. Expanding this specialized training to a broader cohort of hospital nurses is vital to guarantee full clinical coverage across both day and night shifts.

Systemic supply chain disruptions severely hampered daily operations. The facility routinely encountered inadequate stock levels of specialized ready-to-use therapeutic foods, specifically Plumpy Nut, which directly threatened the treatment of severe acute malnutrition cases.

Looking ahead to the 2026/2027 financial year, priority health interventions will include:

- Construction of Tsjaka Ben Hur Primary Health Care Clinic
- Construction of Du Plessis Plaas Primary Health Care Clinic
- The Construction of Aminius Primary Health Care Centre
- Renovation of Health Facilities
- Upgrading and Renovation of Gobabis District Hospital
- Procurement of a new 150KVA Back-up Power Generator Set at Otjinene Health Care Centre, Epukiro Post 3 Primary Health Care Clinic and Tallismanus Primary Health Care Clinic
- Procurement of 2x FX600 washer Extractor for Gobabis District Hospital

5.3 Directorate of Gender Equality and Child Care Protection

Significant progress was made in strengthening social welfare services through targeted child protection interventions, psychosocial support, social protection initiatives, and community awareness campaigns, thereby improving household welfare and community resilience.

5.3.1 Child Protection and Psychosocial Support

Under Child Care and Protection, comprehensive social work services were provided to children affected by violence, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Trafficking in Persons (TIP), abandonment, neglect, and malnutrition. Services included trauma counseling, family support, referrals, care planning, and the preparation of vulnerable witnesses for court proceedings. A total of 85 new child protection cases were registered, of which 71 cases (82%) were finalized up to the care plan stage. The cases primarily involved physical abuse, sexual abuse, and severe child neglect, with formal criminal cases opened in 83 percent of reported incidents. In addition, ten child neglect cases involving a child-headed household at Vergenoeg were successfully managed through family tracing, hostel placement, and care plan development.

Psychosocial support services remained a critical intervention for vulnerable youth facing teenage pregnancy, behavioral challenges, attempted suicide, HIV-related issues, substance abuse, material deprivation, and hostel fee exemptions. During the reporting period, 834 new psychosocial cases were registered, of which 727 (86%) were successfully finalized.

Efforts to reintegrate children living and working on the streets yielded highly positive results:

- Six children were successfully reintegrated into the education system, achieving a 100 percent reintegration rate.
- Seventeen vulnerable children participated in a comprehensive rehabilitation and skills development programme implemented in partnership with the National Youth Service.
- Five children returned to the Omaheke Region and continue to receive daily psychosocial support and three nutritious meals per day.
- Families of vulnerable children benefited from targeted rice donations mobilized through business partners, while three more children were prepared for formal school and hostel placement in June 2026.

Alternative Care and Child Justice Services registered 116 cases, including kinship care and residential placements, of which 64 cases (55%) were finalized.

Furthermore, 37 children in conflict with the law were formally assessed, and 20 children were successfully diverted from the criminal justice system through the Child Justice Programme, prioritizing rehabilitation over prosecution. Violence prevention remained a priority through extensive awareness campaigns conducted in schools and communities regarding Violence Against Children (VAC), online sexual abuse, GBV, and TIP.

5.3.2 Early Childhood Development and Livelihoods Support

ECD services recorded notable achievements through the implementation of a nationwide feeding programme executed in collaboration with the Ministries responsible for Education, Gender Equality, and Health. Community liaison officers, educarers, and volunteer cooks received training in food preparation to ensure the safe delivery of the programme. A total of 2,000 bags of instant porridge were distributed to 102 ECD centres, drastically improving child nutrition and increasing overall ECD enrolment from 1,331 to 1,651 learners across 114 centres. Water tanks and utility connections were completed at these centres, ensuring reliable access to safe drinking water. In addition, 131 educarers continued to receive monthly subsidies, while two new playgrounds were constructed. Eighty-seven teaching and learning kits were also distributed to these centres.

In terms of livelihoods and women's empowerment, 21 women successfully completed an advanced sewing course, equipping them with practical vocational skills to promote local income generation. Full renovations at the Epako Women Centre were completed, substantially upgrading the quality of services and facilities available to women and the surrounding community. Community awareness on gender equality reached 281 community members through targeted sensitization meetings.

Social protection programmes continued to provide an essential safety net to vulnerable households. During the reporting period, social grants totaling N\$12,130,492 were disbursed, benefiting 17,614 eligible beneficiaries across the region and contributing directly to household welfare and poverty reduction.

5.3.3 Social Sector Challenges

Despite these milestones, critical structural challenges remain. The region currently has no emergency shelters or designated places of safety for vulnerable individuals who require immediate protection. Furthermore, social service delivery is severely constrained by a critical shortage of personnel, with only three social workers serving all seven vast constituencies. Limited funding for emergency interventions, increasing client numbers, staff burnout, and vacant key positions (including community liaison officers) continue to strain available resources, with emergency responses frequently diverting funds from planned long-term programming.

6. CREATIVE INDUSTRY

Industrialization is enriched by a thriving creative economy that drives social cohesion, regional marketing, and youth employment. The creative industry transforms cultural heritage into economic assets. By hosting major national events like Miss Namibia and investing in film-making workshops for unemployed youth, Omaheke is diversifying its local economy, showcasing its industrial tourism potential, and generating modern, non-traditional employment opportunities for our creative sector.

6.1 Cultural Festivals and Heritage Site Development

The Omaheke Region continues to promote and celebrate its rich cultural heritage through targeted arts and culture initiatives. Annually, Constituency Arts and Culture Festivals are held across all seven constituencies to select cultural groups to represent their communities at the regional level.

After nearly a decade without hosting a centralized regional cultural festival, the region successfully revived and hosted the Regional Arts and Culture Festival in Otjinene at the end of March 2026. The event attracted over 500 active participants from across the region and approximately 300 community members, serving as a platform for celebrating local traditions, arts, crafts, music, dance, and diverse cultural history. The region is home to several registered out-of-school and school-based cultural groups that regularly showcase their talents at national events, preserving indigenous languages and customs for future generations.

In terms of historical preservation, the Directorate is currently engaging in consultative meetings with Constituency Councillors and Traditional Authorities to identify and document potential heritage sites, including ancient rock engravings, traditional villages, and landmarks. This initiative aims to preserve the region's identity while promoting heritage tourism and local economic development. Currently, the Omaheke Region possesses two formally recognized heritage sites:

- The Ozombuzovindimba Heritage Site in the Otjinene Constituency.
- The Chief Hosea Kutako Memorial Museum in the Aminuis Constituency.

6.2 Traditional Arts, Crafts, and Media Development

To support cultural entrepreneurs and strengthen the creative economy, the Directorate plans to provide intensive business-skills training to artists, crafters, and cultural practitioners over the next two quarters. This training will equip participants with entrepreneurial and marketing skills, enabling them to turn traditional art forms into sustainable economic ventures. Concurrently, the Sub-division of Adult Education plans to train community members in vocational skills for self-employment, specifically dishwashing liquid soap production across Aminuis, Leonardville, Witvlei, and Drimiopsis during this financial year.

In media and film development, the Namibia Film Commission undertook a comprehensive Regional Film Stakeholders Engagement in Omaheke. This initiative aimed to decentralize film industry development, informing the local community about funding opportunities and industry support programmes for the 2026/2027 cycle while identifying unique regional stories, filming locations, and local talent. This engagement explores the region's significant untapped cultural and tourism storytelling potential to contribute to national film growth. Similarly, the NBC Drama School successfully trained 22 unemployed youth from Omaheke

in scriptwriting and filmmaking, enabling them to actively participate in the mainstream economy.

6.3 National Beauty Pageant Hosting

The Omaheke Region is privileged to host the upcoming Miss Namibia and Miss Teen Namibia national beauty pageants, a massive event that will draw thousands of visitors to the town of Gobabis. The Miss Namibia pageant forms a vital part of our broader creative economy, offering lucrative platforms for local makeup artists, fashion designers, choreographers, photographers, and performing artists.

The pageant casts a golden marketing spotlight on the region, aligning perfectly with the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) by leveraging creative industries to drive social cohesion, youth development, and economic diversification.

As part of our active twinning relations with the Charles Hill District in Botswana, my office, together with the Miss Namibia Organization and the Top 10 finalists, undertook a strategic cultural visit to Botswana. During this mission, the delegation partook in various bilateral activities, including tracing the historic footsteps of our Founding Father, the Late Founding President Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, in Botswana.

7. LAND, HOUSING, AND SANITATION

A dignified life begins with secure land tenure, safe housing, and clean sanitation. Industrial expansion is impossible without the corresponding expansion of urban and rural infrastructure to support the workforce. Restoring functional utilities and expanding housing options directly build the stable, formalized environment required to anchor long-term industrial investment.

7.1 Land Administration, Reforms, and Resettlement Programs

Efforts to improve land rights, affordable housing options, and rural resettlement infrastructure remain essential for supporting the livelihoods and dignity of residents across the region. During the 2025/2026 financial year, essential advancements were made in formal land administration, highlighted by the registration of 356 customary land rights.

To directly increase access to affordable housing and reduce informal settlements, the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia completed 50 houses in Freedom Square, with an additional 77 houses actively under construction. Agricultural

expansion and national land distribution were heavily reinforced through the Ministry's acquisition of five distinct farms during the 2025/2026 financial year, which included:

- Farm Karolinenhof No. 269 in the Kalahari Constituency.
- Portion 1 (called Edna) of the Farm Butiaba No. 539 in the Aminuis Constituency.
- The Remainder of the Farm Arnhem No. 540 in the Aminuis Constituency.
- Farm Richlyn No. 421 in the Kalahari Constituency.
- Farm Kehoro Sud No. 160 in the Okorukambe District.

Coupled with these strategic acquisitions, the land reform program successfully resettled 47 previously disadvantaged Namibians in the Omaheke Region at several locations. Specifically, three beneficiaries were placed at Farm Dawis No. 477, while three beneficiaries consisting of individuals of Botswana and Namibian descent were resettled at the newly acquired Farm Richlyn No. 421.

Through a targeted resettlement farm decongestion programme, structural adjustments allowed one farmer from Farm Du Plessis No. 250, one farmer from Farm Kaukurus New No. 1085, and seven farmers from Farm Skoonheid to be resettled at the Remaining Extent of the Farms Wiums Rus No. 433 and Farm Fiesta No. 440, respectively. Concurrently, a total of 32 farmers who had previously been grazing in the Gobabis Municipal area and on Farm Tsjaka were also successfully resettled on Farm Fiesta No. 440.

To systematically address communal land pressure, Farm Alpha No. 628, totaling 6,767.6098 hectares, was formally allocated to the Aminuis Constituency to extend the Aminuis communal land boundaries. These land administration frameworks concurrently generated essential revenue, totaling N\$209,737.37 from resettlement farm leases and N\$147,525.57 from communal areas leasehold payments.

7.1.1 Land Infrastructure Challenges

Despite these milestones, critical challenges remain regarding institutional handovers and access to functional utilities for new occupants. Non-functional water infrastructure currently exists on resettlement farms allotted in the 2025/2026 financial year due to the lengthy period between the initial acquisition of a farm and its formal allocation, which continues to delay beneficiaries from physically occupying their units. These challenges highlight a clear need for deliberate regional interventions to systematically restore functional infrastructure,

resolve ongoing community disputes, and ensure that regional land allocation programs achieve their intended positive impact on local residents' livelihoods.

7.2 Housing Development and Capital Programs

Expanding access to formal housing, modern structural layouts, and essential supporting infrastructure represents a critical pillar in improving the living standards, dignity, and civic well-being of residents across the region.

Through the Omaheke Regional Council, significant progress has been achieved under the Build Together Programme, where 54 houses out of 70 have been completed -specifically including 12 in Epukiro, 8 in Tallismanus, and 34 in Aminuis - with the remaining 16 set to be completed in the current financial year. Additionally, Build Together houses are actively being constructed in Eiseb 10 with a budget of N\$3,200,000.00 to construct 41 housing units, while the Tallismanus Build Together housing project is also ongoing with a budget of N\$2,000,000.00 to construct 25 housing units. Alongside these residential projects, the renovation of the Tallismanus Community Hall has been completed, with only tiling and minor work remaining to be finalized when additional funds become available.

To systematically mitigate urbanization pressure in Otjinene and Epukiro Post 3, the Regional Council initiated formal town-planning processes to establish new townships in Otjiuaneho and Otjijarua, allocating a dedicated budget of N\$500,000 for each. Furthermore, comprehensive township establishment activities were undertaken to transition Eiseb 10 and Corridor 13 from informal centers to structured settlements, with N\$1,000,000.00 allocated to Eiseb 10 and N\$500,000.00 to Corridor 13.

The Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, in partnership with the Regional Council, also successfully procured neighboring commercial farmland to expand the capacity of the Buitepos Border Post settlement, which included a portion of Farm Sandfontein No. 468 and Farm Arbeidsgenot at a cost of N\$33,500,000.00. The formal town planning, rezoning, and consolidation planning process for this newly acquired land has been executed at a cost of N\$1.150 million.

Broader institutional infrastructure expansion programmes are also being pursued to resolve distinct housing and capacity challenges within public facilities:

- Gobabis Vocational Training Centre: Actively pursuing an infrastructure expansion programme that specifically includes student accommodation facilities to address its accommodation challenges.
- Gobabis Youth Facility: Remains at Phase 1 with only an office block completed; implementation is currently pending for Phases 2 and 3, which are planned to consist of a youth-friendly health clinic, a gym, and a hostel facility. Meanwhile, the regional youth center at Farm Du Plessis remains underutilized compared to other similar centers within the Directorate.
- Gobabis Correctional Facility: Currently undergoing an extensive infrastructure expansion project which will be implemented in three distinct phases. Phase 1 of the project is underway, involving the construction of new inmate accommodation comprising three living units, with completion expected by 31 March 2027. Phase 2 will comprise the construction of specialized program delivery facilities, while Phase 3 will involve constructing additional office space to enhance administrative capacity. Upon completion of Phase 1, the expanded infrastructure will significantly reduce inmate overcrowding in communal cells, improve living conditions, and enhance safe, secure, and humane custody.
- Leonardville Village Council: Under the Build Together Housing Programme, the Council allocated N\$560,000.00 towards the completion of seven Build Together houses for qualifying beneficiaries. To further address housing demand, the Council is currently awaiting the release of N\$1,040,000.00 to construct an additional thirteen Build Together houses.
- Leonardville Expansion Planning: The Council appointed an engineering consultant to undertake the planning and design of a new residential extension comprising approximately 1,400 erven, as well as the planning of a 20-hectare industrial area to create opportunities for future residential development and attract investment to support economic growth. To facilitate future expansion, the Leonardville Council also appointed a registered surveyor to undertake surveying works for Extensions 1 and 2, which have been successfully completed and are currently awaiting payment from the Ministry for the services rendered.

7.3 Sanitation, Water Infrastructure, and Utilities Management

The Witvlei Village Council focused heavily on upgrading its foundational infrastructure and water management, acquiring a sewerage truck and a tipper truck that have strengthened its internal capacity to deliver sanitation and waste management services. The Council also undertook the procurement of prepaid water meters to enhance revenue collection, improve water management, and promote efficient water use among residents, while systematically upgrading several roads within the village boundaries to improve accessibility, road safety, and service delivery.

Leonardville has similarly advanced its sanitation and infrastructure operations, receiving an allocation of N\$1,800,000.00 for the procurement of a tipper truck, which is now fully operational and supporting municipal operations, road maintenance, infrastructure development, and waste management. It also successfully spent N\$154,583.00 on rehabilitating the village sewer pump to ensure the continued effective operation and reliability of the sewerage system.

Extensive institutional and rural sanitation developments have been completed to improve community health:

- Across the wider region, the Omaheke Regional Council successfully constructed 95 flushing toilets in rural areas at a cost of N\$1,547,618.00.
- The Okorukambe Constituency started a targeted toilet construction project in the 2025/2026 financial year, benefiting 27 households. This project will continue into the 2026/2027 financial year, allowing more households to benefit.

7.3.1 Gobabis Municipal Housing and Land Delivery

The Gobabis Municipality implemented multiple concurrent programmes to facilitate housing development, accelerate land delivery, and upgrade infrastructure:

- In Epako, 32 Build Together houses were formally handed over to beneficiaries to reduce the housing backlog.
- A total of 46 residential erven were allocated to beneficiaries in Epako and Nossobville to increase land ownership status.
- To address the housing backlog, the Council allocated land to developers: the Development Workshop of Namibia was allocated 225 residential erven in Nossobville to provide affordable land; Star Merchandising was allocated 225 residential erven in Nossobville; and the Shack Dwellers

Federation of Namibia was allocated 74 erven for a middle-income group and 84 erven for a low-income group in Nossobville. All three developer projects are currently awaiting approval from the Urban and Regional Planning Board.

- A budget provision of N\$380,000.00 was allocated for surveying work in Kanaan, which is currently progressing alongside the recruitment and filling of the Community Services Officer position to accelerate land servicing.
- The municipality increased its sanitation workforce by recruiting 30 temporary sanitation workers and improved waste collection capacity by procuring a skip container truck, with the planned procurement of a front-end loader and deployment of skip container caretakers ongoing.

7.3.2 Water Meter Modernization Programs

The Gobabis Municipality is currently transitioning from conventional water meter systems to a prepaid water meter system. Backed by a substantial budget allocation of N\$15,995,000.00, this transition is now 80% implemented and is specifically designed to improve municipal revenue collection, systematically reduce water losses, and promote highly responsible water consumption habits among residents. Similarly, the Witvlei Village Council procured prepaid water meters to optimize its local water management and revenue frameworks.

In the Epukiro Constituency, three rural water point projects were successfully completed through a targeted investment of more than N\$92,000.00 in infrastructure. This initiative specifically funded the provision of a borehole component at the Otjinoko Water Point for N\$14,271.50, various borehole equipment at the Ondjora Water Point for N\$62,070.55, and a borehole pump at the Ovitua Water Point for N\$15,812.50.

Moving beyond localized water points, larger-scale supply interventions achieved the installation of boreholes in the Tsjaka Ben Hur and Eiseb 10 settlements at a total cost of N\$3,740,212.14, successfully alleviating the acute water crisis in those areas, while the one remaining borehole in Ben Hur is scheduled for installation in the next financial year as funds become available.

Veteran Housing

The Ministry of Veteran Affairs has committed to building two houses for two veterans in the Region during the 2026/2027 financial year. The beneficiaries are: Mr. Moses Undjee Nganate and Ms. Mihe. C Tlhabanello

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT - Omaheke Regional Council

The Omaheke Regional Council's Procurement Management Unit successfully completed public procurement activities for goods, works, and services totaling N\$75,248,535.07 during the fiscal period under review.

This initiative achieved an exceptionally high level of local participation, directing N\$60,418,964.49, representing 80.3% of all public procurement contracts, specifically toward supporting local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) within the Omaheke Region. This targeted financial support directly enhanced local economic participation, built internal commercial capacity, and successfully improved overall service delivery across the broader Omaheke community.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Police Infrastructure and Station Development

Structural development is actively underway for the new Epako Police Station capital project, which includes the construction of two houses, one male barracks, one female barracks, and modern holding cells. The capital project has reached 20.5% physical progress and is securely scheduled for completion by 26 March 2027. This infrastructure investment is intended to alleviate severe constraints on accommodation and office space within the station's expanding jurisdiction.

In terms of proactive community policing and engagement, targeted crime prevention and awareness campaigns were rolled out across 12 schools within the region, specifically targeting critical issues such as bullying, gang violence, drug abuse, the carrying of dangerous weapons, and school vandalism.

Concurrently, the force conducted 16 formalized community meetings with local residents, youth groups, business stakeholders, and bar/shebeen owners. These sessions focused heavily on mitigating substance abuse, noise pollution, localized community safety concerns, and the illegal sale of alcohol to minors. These operational efforts successfully led to the direct resolution of 20 distinct community problems, addressing youth violence, alcohol abuse, noise complaints, and localized disputes. Additionally, community policing teams completed 15 media engagements to broadcast safety information on Liquor Act regulations,

drug abuse, and crime prevention, and participated in three regional expos and career fairs.

Law Enforcement Statistics and Crime Trends

Regarding narcotics and specialized law enforcement operations, the force registered 60 drug-related offenses during the 2025/2026 financial year, which comprised 18 cases for dealing in cannabis/mandrax and 42 cases for possession. These operations resulted in the successful arrest of 69 males and 4 females, yielding a total illicit contraband seizure value of N\$18,927,000.00.

For major crime trends and criminal investigations, a total of 17 murder cases were recorded during the reporting period, with 4 cases completely solved, 6 currently under active investigation, and 7 successfully placed on the formal court roll.

Property theft remains prevalent and poses a challenge, with 298 cases of housebreaking and theft registered, involving 210 residential and 88 business premises. Furthermore, 92 cases of stock theft were reported, leading to 59 arrests; a total of 611 big stock and 180 small stock units were stolen, valued at N\$11,164,450.00, while recovery efforts successfully retrieved stock valued at N\$721,750.00. Meanwhile, domestic violence, common assault, and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm remain highly prevalent across the region, with investigations concluding that alcohol abuse, drug abuse, jealousy, and poverty serve as the primary drivers of these offenses.

To reinforce regional security operations and optimize service delivery, a total of 104 newly trained police officers from the 2024/2025 recruitment intake were deployed directly to the Omaheke Region during the review period.

ROADS IN OMAHEKE

Capital Road Projects and Proclamations

During the last reporting period, construction of both the Tallismanus and the Epukiro-Du Plessis low-volume seal roads was underway. These vital road projects will continue into the new financial period, backed by a substantial budget allocation of N\$340,000,000.00 for the Tallismanus road and N\$117,000,000.00 for the Epukiro - Du Plessis roads.

To optimize the regional logistical network, the following roads have been recently proclaimed:

- **DR 3857:** Okozondje - Otjozondjima village Roads
- **DR 3856:** Ohakavena - Otjijere Road
- **DR 3858:** Post 3 - Otjijere Road
- **DR 3855:** Ovinjuru - Otjitundu Road
- **DR 3860:** Otjijere - Otjitundu - Omburo - Omutumbotjari Road
- **DR 3851:** Otjimanangombe - Omuramba Uambuombapa Road
- **DR 3849:** Okaperongo - Omuramba Uambuombapa Road
- **DR 3837:** Otjomunguindi - Omarindiuzondoroma - Otjongamburiro Road
- **DR 3848:** Omuramba Uambuombapa - Benyamen post (Otjirongotja Marama Murangi) Road
- **DR 3859:** Otjiwarongo - Okambukonmbandje - Okarindi - Kotjimburu - Otjongoro - Otuaerera Road
- **DR 3852:** Otjinoko - Otuaerera - Dam6 - Ourundu Road
- **DR 3854:** Otjikova - Ozonduno - Ovijapa - Omuramba Uazongupa Road

Gobabis Weighbridge Performance and Traffic Analysis

During the 2025/2026 financial year, the Gobabis Weighbridge maintained high operational compliance, weighing 89,551 heavy vehicles. While 12,746 heavy vehicles (14.2%) were found to be overloaded in total, the vast majority fell safely within the allowable 5% tolerance threshold and were issued formal warnings. Only 183 heavy vehicles (0.2%) exceeded this tolerance level and were formally charged, resulting in an excellent net load compliance rate of 98%.

In addition to weight checks, the weighbridge conducted comprehensive vehicle and driver fitness inspections on 68,341 heavy vehicles. This initiative revealed an outstanding compliance rate of 99.4%, with only 424 vehicles (0.6%) found to be non-compliant and subsequently charged.

In terms of law enforcement and revenue collection, a total of 607 fines were issued for overloading, fitness, and transportation violations, generating N\$1,492,250.00 in revenue. From this compiled amount, N\$630,000.00 (42.2%) has been successfully paid to the government, while the local Magistrate's Court has issued warrants of arrest to execute the remaining unpaid fines.

Traffic volume tracking along the critical B6 Route recorded a grand total of 197,435 vehicles utilizing the corridor during the review period. This traffic flow was heavily driven by regional freight and international commerce, consisting of

127,761 heavy vehicles and 69,674 light vehicles moving dynamically between Gobabis and the Buitepos Border Post.

Regional Electrification and Grid Infrastructure Performance

During the 2025/2026 fiscal period, CENORED significantly advanced the region's infrastructure development and service delivery pillars by investing approximately N\$5.640 million into local grid expansions. This capital deployment successfully brought 215 new household electricity connections to our rural and peri-urban communities, while the installation of key street lighting infrastructure directly improved public safety. Notably, major connectivity projects progressed in Drimiopsis, Otjinene, and Blouberg, while two new 11kV reclosers were successfully commissioned for the Omaheke Regional Council and the Otjinene Village Council, drastically improving network reliability and emergency response times. Beyond infrastructure, these initiatives served as a vital socio-economic catalyst by creating temporary employment and skills development opportunities for local contractors and youth.

Looking ahead to the 2026/2027 financial year, CENORED is maintaining this momentum with a clear strategic focus on underserved communities and housing support. A combined pipeline budget of over N\$3.3 million has been designated to execute the Goreses, Tsaka Ben Hur, and Aminius electrification projects, targeting an additional 88 household connections. While the organization continues to navigate cross-cutting challenges, including rising material costs, supply chain delays, and vast geographical distances, mitigation strategies are firmly in place. Through strict project prioritization, optimized resource management, and intensified stakeholder coordination, we are fully prepared to build long-term community resilience and unlock the industrial and socio-economic potential of the Omaheke Region.

The data I have presented today demonstrates that the Omaheke Region is actively building on progress. From the grassroots self-sustainability of Okorukurure to the multimillion-dollar road networks cutting through our constituencies, we are laying the concrete groundwork for an economic renaissance.

But let me be absolutely clear: agricultural self-sufficiency and social interventions are only the first phases of our journey. To fulfill our mandate under the Sixth National Development Plan and to truly honor the vision of Her Excellency, President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, we must aggressively transition into an industrial powerhouse.

Our theme this year-“**Unlocking Omaheke’s Industrial Potential Through Manufacturing and Mining**”- is our operational compass. We will not be content with exporting our raw cattle, our raw crops, or our raw minerals. We will add value right here in Omaheke. The establishment of our peanut processing plant and our scientific consultations on the Leonardville Uranium Project prove that we are ready to build factories, secure mines, and manufacture high-value goods on our own soil.

We have aligned our schools to produce technically competent youth, our infrastructure to handle heavy commerce, our police force to secure multi-million-dollar investments, and our procurement frameworks to empower local businesses. Every pillar of our administration is now synchronized to drive this industrial revolution.

The challenges we face - whether they are transport constraints in our forestry sector, non-functional boreholes on newly acquired resettlement land, or infrastructure gaps in our youth facilities, are the indicators of where we must direct our energy and resources with greater intensity in the 2026/2027 fiscal year. We are too few to be poor, and we are too determined to be deterred.

Let us march forward with unity of purpose. Let us transform Omaheke from a transit corridor into an industrial destination. Together, we will unlock our manufacturing capabilities, secure our mining potential, and ensure a shared, dignified prosperity for every single citizen of this beautiful region.