



Republic of Namibia

STATEMENT

BY

HONOURABLE ERGINUS ENDJALA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS

21 JULY 2023

OUTAPI

OMUSATI REGION

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

It is indeed my distinct honour for having been accorded this opportunity to address this August House today, Friday 21 July 2023. This is my obligation in accordance with Article 110 A, Sub-Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, which requires "the Regional Governor to attend a Meeting of the Regional Council of the Region once a year following the President's address to Parliament under Article 32, Sub-Paragraph 2, and to address the Regional Council on the State of the Region, planned activities of the Central Government in the Region, and report on the Central Government's work during the previous year in the area and be available to take questions".

Nevertheless, it is vital to state that the national economy has not yet recovered from harmful impacts of Covid-19. Hence, its impact has adversely affected the implementation of developmental Projects and Programmes during the Year under review. Covid-19 has not yet completely disappeared and hence I urge our people to observe the established health protocols and get vaccinated.

Equally, the regional economic production is severely affected by erratic rainfall recorded this year. This situation can lead to further devastating conditions throughout the Region. This has already resulted in insufficient water resources for agriculture, drinking water supplies and ecosystems, including increased risk of wildfires. Likewise, it has led to crop failure and food scarcity. Therefore, we must build resilience in the fight against climate change.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Republic of Namibia, especially His Excellency, Dr. Hage G. Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia for his tested leadership which has navigated our economy through the hardship and devastation caused by Covid-19. Likewise, I wish to thank the members of the public for their determination and commitment in complementing efforts of our Government's resolute in addressing the plight of the less fortunate in our society. I am confident that our combined efforts and focus will culminate in a robust economy which shall create an enabling environment in addressing ongoing challenges.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

So, permit me now to share with this August House several activities which were executed during the 2022/2023 Financial Year in our Region.

Pertaining to development of infrastructure by our Local Authorities, Ruacana Town Council has invested N\$690,000.00 on formalization of Omonawatjihozu Informal Settlement. Likewise, Okahao Town Council has spent N\$8,975,050.33 on construction of a new open market, public ablutions at Ehao Expo Centre, Phase 2 of its office expansion and upgrading of a gravel road in Okahao Extension 2 to bitumen standards.

Tsandi Village Council has invested N\$4,673,843.80 on maintenance of gravel roads at Extension 2, construction of oxidation treatment plant Phase 2 and Tsandi Open Market Phase 2. Oshikuku Town Council has also invested N\$3,235,893.51 on construction of bitumen road in Extension 2, storm water channel, an open market and consulting services for the said infrastructure. Outapi Town Council invested N\$6,101,842.07 on construction of sewer services, water at Extension 8 and 12 (Tobias Hainyeko) Phase 1 and 2, a guardhouse and gate at dumping site, the provision of sewer services at Erf 4080 to 4383, in Extension 4, gravelling of 2.6 km road, layout designs and township establishment for Extension 20.

Furthermore, Omusati Regional Council has invested N\$11,120,480.09 on repair and servicing of sewerage pump machines at Ogongo Rural Development Centre, supply, delivery and installation of pump machines for Onandjaba Village Council Extension 1 pump station, amendment of Extension Proper, 1 and 2, Planning of Extensions 3 and 4, cadastral surveying of portions 9 Extension 3, Extension 4 and 11 (cemetery) and Extension 1 (pump house), construction of oxidation pond Phase 2 in Onandjaba Village Council and construction of 50 toilets in rural areas at household level. Similarly, resources were invested in construction of services infrastructure at Ogongo Settlement and electrification of Omulimbalimba Growth Point in Ogongo Constituency and installation of fire hydrant system at Omusati Regional Council Head Office.

Equally, N\$1,741,412.94 was spent on purchasing of materials for Uundombo, Odimbwa-Eehongo, Olyavakala-Elakalapwa, Oinikanika-Okashegele, Ombaamba, Otapatapa-Amapeke-OmaputugaAshimba, Onhofi short water pipelines in Elim, Etayi, Ogongo, Otamanzi and Outapi Constituencies and construction of Okwiidhiya access bridge in Okahao Constituency. An amount of N\$3,492,834 was spent on compensation of 6 homesteads in Onesi Settlement and 2 in Etayi Constituency. Likewise, 5 houses were built in Onesi Settlement and 4 in Ogongo Settlement under the Decentralized Build Together Programme.

Relating to the provision of agricultural equipment and services, 2,111 farmers benefitted, through the subsidized Ploughing Services, with private and public tractors, ripping, planting and draught animal power. A total of 48 private operators and 22 casual tractor drivers were hired. Also, 9,987 farmers received 48.9 (48,900 kg) tons of pearl millet, sorghum, cow peas and maize.

Additionally, 67 farms benefited from discounted weeding services under which 8 youth groups were hired and 10 farmers had access to storage facilities. A total number of 138 farmers received the assistance of one-day-old chicks, layers and broilers, poultry feed, medical supplies and building materials under the Poultry Value Chain Programme Scheme. A total number of 581 gardens and 519 farmers benefited from the National Horticultural Help Programme. Again, 20 farmers received 420 goats, while 2,950 farmers were trained in crop and horticulture production, livestock management and rangeland management.

The Office of the Prime Minister too has allocated the drought relief food items, namely 62,480 (12,5 kg) of maize meal, 62,480 (12,5 kg) bags of mahangu meal, 124,960 (750 ml) bottles of cooking oil, 114,168 (155 g) and 308,992 (400 g) tinned fish and 124,960 (750 g) soya mince from August 2022 – March 2023. A total of 15,620 households with 74,841 beneficiaries from five (5) drought declared Constituencies i.e. the western parts of Outapi, Ruacana, Tsandi, Onesi and Okahao benefited from the Programme. The Regional Council used services of ten (10) casual labourers to offload and load the drought commodities at warehouses.

Omusati Regional Council was allocated 3 NDF trucks, 2 GRN trucks from the Government Garage, 1 truck from the OPM, six drivers from NDF and 3 drivers from the Government Institutions to assist with the distribution of items to the drought declared Constituencies. Omusati Region was loaned 1 water tanker for emergency water supply within Omusati Region from the Office of the Prime Minister. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) regarding the usage of a tanker.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

Water is life! Thus, N\$1,738,094.47 was invested in drilling of 3 boreholes in Tsandi, 3 in Anamulenge and 2 in Ruacana Constituencies. An amount of N\$355,490.88 was spent on installation of borehole in Ruacana Constituency, while N\$1,038,538.36 on rehabilitation of 2 earth dams in Outapi and 4 in Tsandi Constituencies. Likewise, N\$237,154.00 was spent on construction of new earth dams in Tsandi Constituency and N\$172,300.00 on upgrading hand dug well solar installation at Onesi Constituency.

Likewise, N\$1,540,000 was spent on drilling and installation of boreholes, construction of short pipelines, excavation of earth dams, modernization of dug wells, including the preventative maintenance of water infrastructure at Ombafi-Ombaamba, Oikwiyuyeengombe, Onakaheke-Oniimwandi, Okafitukakahala B, Oshikushomututu-Onambedi, Omutundungu-Omutaku, Oshipeto-Okaonde, Elakalapwa-Ohongo, Okanwa-Eehongo, Oinikanika–Okashegele, Otaadhiya–Olunkavu, Uundombo, Okaku and Uukwaniita. Similar work is executed but still in progress at Okapalekeevila, Okatanyange, Onkani-Ohama, Otapatapa-Omaputugaashimba, Uukwanangaa B, Iipanda-Onakafe-Oshikweyo and Onamutoni-Eenyama.

It is really pleasing to state that the Department of Civil Registration has registered a total of 7,779 birth registrations. A total of 499 births were registered during Outreach Programmes. Likewise, 10,891 ID applications were handled, while 8,889 IDs were gathered. Also, 35 births of children under the age of five were registered. During the Celebrations of Africa Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Day on 10 August, 99 births and 67 IDs were registered. In Okalongo Constituency, through Outreach Programme, 443 births and 707 identities were registered. Usually, birth registrations are conducted after a one-month period as specified in legal frameworks governing the birth registration. However, late birth registration becomes an impediment since it could lead to registrations of persons who were not born in the country.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

Education is the key to life and hence N\$395,768.05 was invested on construction of classroom block at Omufitu North CS and Ontanda PS and N\$3,000,000.00 on renovation of 6 classrooms block at Tsandi PS and 4 classrooms block at Shedile SS. An amount of N\$70,000.00 was spent on connection of Tsandi Circuit Office to Tsandi Village Council main sewerage, cutting down a baobab tree at Omuthitu CS and renovation of defects on office and house building at Anamulenge Circuits. Also, N\$1,219,049.58 was invested on construction of classroom and blocks at Ondeitotela CS, Holden Uulenga CS, Otjovanatje PS and Onanyalala PS through the generosity of the European Union.

An amount of N\$1,471,996.97 was invested on construction of small ablution facility at Onaholongo CS, Ontoko CS, Ondeka CS, Tomas Tuutaleni SS, Omindaba CS, Sakeus Iihuhwa PS and Anamulenge PS, while N\$645,880.56 on repairing sewer system at Onesi SS and N\$918,022.50 on renovation of ablution facilities Blocks 1 - 6 for girls' hostel blocks 1 - 4 at Nuuyoma SS.

Pertaining to development of health infrastructure, N\$1,671,863.00 was invested on construction of prefabricated structures for border services support site at Okapalelola, Wakashamane and Mahenene Border Posts. Also, N\$403,255.20 was spent on renovation of Ward 2 at Outapi District Hospital and N\$19,366,041.04 was invested on Oshikulufitu new Clinic and staff accommodation. An amount of N\$50,409.00 was invested on cardiocography machine, while N\$364,216.80 was invested on construction of two Dental Units for Oshikuku and Outapi District Hospitals. Moreover, N\$2,852,960.46 was spent on installation of laundry equipment at Okahao District Hospital and Outapi District Hospital's Isolation Ward.

It is comforting to report that 74 applications of the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle were approved and N\$170, 000.00 was expended for their Projects. The Namibian Defence Force, together with the Namibian Police and residents, has assisted the Forestry Officers regarding extinguishing fires in forestry. About 27,485 hectares were destroyed and hence our people should handle fires with care to avoid destruction of range land.

Equally, efforts were embarked upon to fight deforestation. Thus, 14,826 seedlings were produced, 36 planted and 10,914 seedlings were sold for N\$111,128.00. Also, 8 Training Sessions on Tree Planting and Orchard Management were conducted in supporting the NILALEG Project's Tree Planting Competition for schools at Ruacana Teachers Resources Centre, Okalongo, Outapi, Oshikuku, Otamanzi and Anamulenge Constituencies as well as Amarika Cooperative. Moreover, 146 farmers received training, while eight (8) Information Sharing Meetings on the Forest Act were convened with farmers in Tsandi, Okahao, Otamanzi and Onesi Constituencies. Likewise, 239 farmers received forest resource permits, while 191 persons received basic instructions in fire prevention and suppression, along with 8 fire management groups. Again, 84 bee cases were removed from communities and relocated.

On the Arbor Day Tree Planting Competition, Onelago Combined School scooped top honours, followed by Tsandi Junior Primary School. A total of 150 saplings were donated during the Day. It was sponsored by the CCIU Project and Adventure Trust with materials worth N\$42,000.00. Concerning to protection of our natural resources, intensive and regular patrols were conducted and led to recovery of illegal harvested resources. Thus, 1,099 poles, 999 droppers and 38 tons of firewood were confiscated and sold at auction for N\$59,670.00.

Also, 2,249 droppers, 1,349 poles, and 47 tons of firewood were confiscated and resulted in issuing of 36 fines worth N\$27,400.00.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

Regarding the maintenance of law and order, it is pleasing to state that crime in the Region is still under control. This is due to vigilance and cooperation between residents and the law enforcement agents. However, increasing assault offences and domestic violence remain a grave concern. Though, the crime rate in the Region fluctuated with stealing cases ranking first. The numbers of theft and home invasions with intent to steal have alarmingly risen.

The rise in stock theft occurrences were reported, particularly in Uukolonkadhi District, where stolen animals were taken into the Republic of Angola. Along Namibia-Angola borders, cases of illegal immigration and smuggling of contraband goods are on increase. Therefore, the Police are working hard to reverse these anomalies. Additionally, other criminalities have increased from 4,079 to 4,529.

Equally, the number of assaults involving domestic violence has slightly increased with 257 incidents. Again, 112 rape instances were reported with the majority child victims. Other criminalities were 653 theft, 513 housebreaking and theft, 477 assault GBV, 447 other assaults (common assault and assault by threat), 257 domestic violence, 232 stock theft, 226 fraud, 129 theft of cell phones and 111 robbery. To reduce criminalities, the Namibian Police Force are activating and increase foot and vehicle patrols to upsurge their visibility and improving crime detection.

Still, hundred and eighteen (118) occurrences of unnatural deaths, including shooting, hanging and overdose in addition to drowning, suffocation and other catastrophes were reported. Eighty-one (81) about suicide, 18 involved suffocation and sixteen (16) involved drowning. Sadly, 13 of 16 drowning cases involved toddler deaths, either in buckets of water, oshikundu, water ponds or water canals due to lack of parental care. Most often, toddlers who drowned were left unattended, while their guardians/parents were out at shebeens. Sixteen (16) infants mysteriously died of suffocation after allegedly being laid on top by their drunken mothers. So, the Namibian Police Force has already begun taking strong action against such careless parents/guardians by filing criminal charges against them and bringing them before court to face prosecution.

In addition, overcrowding in the Police holding cells worsens due to the growing trend in inmates' pollution density. The delayed criminal cases in court is partly contributing to congestion of the Police holding cells. Only seven (7) of sixteen (16) Police Stations in the Region have the Detention Centres.

Due to extensive repairs of holding cells, Outapi Police Station still lacks the capacity to accommodate convicts. The cell capacity in the Police cells in Outapi, Okahao, Ruacana, Tsandi, Onandjaba, Etayi, Oshifo and Oshikuku is 309 but they are currently accommodating 609 inmates.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

In effort to empower our residents in rural areas, the Region has Uukolonkadhi, Sheya Shuushona and Uukwaluudhi Conservancies. Sheya Shuushona Conservancy has earned N\$700,000.00 from tourism and invested in its Members N\$175,000.15 to establish horticultural garden worth N\$29,166.67 for Okalili Centre, building materials for establishment of poultry farming and chicken feed worth N\$145,833.35 for Uuzilo, Uuninginino, Etilyasa, Omukondo and Omuthitu Centres, N\$28,000.00 to Ongandjera Traditional Authority Office and N\$7,000.00 cash benefit to Ongandjera Traditional Palace. Uukwaluudhi Conservancy too has generated N\$235,617.60 and invested in its Members N\$13,000.00. The Ministry Environment, Forestry and Tourism has provided diesel to communities of Okangwiya, Etumba, Amaupa, Oshaasholongo, Okomakwala, Omatetewe and Oshimbulumbu worth N\$8,000.00. It has also provided Uukwaluudhi Traditional Authority Office with a financial bonus of N\$5,000.00.

Moreover, Uukwaluudhi Traditional Authority was sponsored by Uukwaluudhi Conservancy with 3 springboks, an oryx and an eland. The Conservancy also donated a springbok to Tsandi Primary School and Omusati Police Tournament with a springbok and its Members at Omakange Centre with a giraffe and Onamwege Centre with a zebra. Ten oryxes were contributed by Uukwaluudhi Conservancy for the Celebrations of the National Independence Day on 21 March 2023 at Outapi.

The hunting and fishing licenses generated N\$19,241.15 for Uukwaluudhi Conservancy, but Uukolonkadhi Conservancy was unable to offer any incentive to its Members. It was further recorded that 149 cattle worth N\$447,000.00, 24 donkeys worth N\$12,000.00, 192 goats worth N\$96,000.00, 13 horses worth N\$9,100.00 and 27 sheep worth N\$18,900.00 were lost due to human wildlife conflict. Also, 2 admissions of fines worth of N\$4,000.00 were issued for wildlife poaching, while 30 leopards and tortoise (live) were seized. The Community Conservation Fund of Namibia (CCFN) has supported three Conservancies to upgrade seven community boreholes, solar panels, drinking walls and drinking troughs at Okeendjimbi, Amaupa, Oshaasholongo, Onamandongo No. 2, Embadhi, Elago borehole and Otjomilunga.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development Omusati Regional Office has facilitated 470 applications for close corporation, 50 import/export permits and 81 SME Certificates.

As part of entrepreneurship development and promotion, through the EMPRETEC Programme, MIT Head Office has invited entrepreneurs from different Regions, through a local newspaper, to apply for a Gemstone Cutting and Polishing Training. Hence, it received 99 applications and the process is ongoing.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has also distributed 300,002 catfish, 159,249 tilapia to 64 trained farmers at Onavivi IAC, Ongwediva IAC and Epalela FF. At Onavivi IAC, 1,964,200 tilapia fry, tilapia fingerling and catfish fry and catfish fingerling were produced. Likewise, 14,500.00 tilapia, (2,0) tons at Onavivi Epalela and 1,2 tons were harvested at SSFFs. A total of 2.5 tons of tilapia was donated to the Office of the Prime Minister for flood victims in Omusati, Ohangwena and Oshana Regions. The rest was sold during the World Food Day at Uukwiyuushona in Oshana Region on 15 October 2022.

On labour front, 130 labour complaints were received by Outapi Regional Office and were successfully addressed, while 40 complaints were forwarded to the Office of the Labour Commissioner for resolution through a conciliation and arbitration process. The Labour Commissioner has received 118 labour cases, out of which 71 were resolved through conciliation and 47 through arbitration. As a result, the complaints received 47 arbitration awards. The Office has also carried out 63 workplace audits within the Region to assess the degree of compliance with the fundamental terms and conditions of employment as per the Labour Act of 2007 (Act No. 11 of 2007).

The inspections were conducted in security, energy/fuel, garage/transport, agriculture, construction, informal sectors, retail wholesale industries and wholesale sectors. Though, it noted that it is only agriculture, security, construction and home (domestic employees) sectors are subject to minimum wage regulations. Outapi Labour Regional Office has further registered 718 women and 334 men job seekers. There were 1,052 registered job applicants, but only 53 were hired. As part of job creation, I hereby wish to invite you all to witness the first grape plantation farm at Etunda Green Scheme on 20 September 2023 and about approximately 1,000 jobs will be created.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

A total of 622 applications for resettlement were received by Omusati Regional Resettlement Committee. However, only one (1) person was allocated a farming Unit in Kunene Region. The Land Board has approved 1,806 Customary Land Rights (CLR) and Certificates were forwarded to Traditional Authorities for distribution. The Board has approved 18 applications for the Rights of Leasehold and issuance of Certificates. The Board has issued a certificate and authorized one (1) application for Occupational Land Rights. The Communal Land Board has received twenty-nine (29) land-related disputes.

Nine (9) land disputes were resolved, while fourteen (14) were referred to Traditional Authorities for further adjudication.

One (1) was referred to the Minister's Office for further investigation, and two (2) are at the Magistrate Court and two (2) at the High Court for adjudication. The Community Land Leases Income has received N\$106,113.02 from communal leases. Eight (8) fences were to be removed, while three (3) unlawful barriers have already been removed willingly.

Also, under the Project for Communal Land Development (PCLD), N\$184,868.25 was invested in borehole cleaning and pumps testing at Okatutu Breeding Camp at Otjetjekua Farmers' Co-operative. Also, N\$1,100,000.00 was invested in construction of 18.1 km of external fences at Ohamayongwe Farmers' Co-operative and N\$1,659,000.000 on construction of 49 km of external fences at Amarika Farmers' Co-operative.

**Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Members,**

Ogongo Campus of UNAM has hosted the Research and Innovation Day and it was attended by local farmers and external presenters like the Directorate of Forestry (Outapi), Olushandja Horticultural Producers, AgriBank of Namibia, Mobile Soil Testing Lab sponsored by GIZ Farm-4-Resilience Project, and various Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform (MAWLR) Offices, to mention but a few. Again, on 3 June 2022, three rice farmers in Ogongo Constituency hosted the Farmer's Information Day and it was attended by about 70 stakeholders.

Due to the modest abilities of lab technicians, Ogongo Campus's Tissue Culture Laboratory has been abandoned for more than ten years. However, in June 2022, the University of Namibia, in conjunction with Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia), offered training to six (6) technologists at Ogongo Campus. Trainees received thorough practical instruction on media preparation, sanitation and explant culture in addition to fundamental theory on tissue culture procedures.

Also, an Agreement was signed between the Namibian Agronomic Board and UNAM to carry out seed research and multiplication at several locations in the country. The Sponsorship for the Project was N\$1,505,975.48. The primary objective of Ogongo Campus is the production and selection of mahangu, maize and potato seed. Six distinct potato types, 60 white maize hybrids and 24 different pearl millet (mahangu) variants were tested. The main goal is to establish a trustworthy local seed supply in Namibia to guarantee food security. Moreover, the Campus has received a sponsorship of N\$750,000.00 to support food production and education of young Namibians by DebMarine Namibia. The funds purchased supplies for poultry breeding activities and raising rice production.

Thus, the Campus's annual production of rice rose from 4 ha to 10 ha, totaling 25 tons and the hatchery's capacity increased to 30,000 chicks annually. The main objective of the Project is to plant native trees for carbon offsets. It also helped to create a sense of protection in native plants and wildlife in general by raising the value of indigenous forest products like marula fruits, monkey oranges and oombe. The Phoenix Project, an ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Cardiff University and UNAM, includes this project as one of its components. Upon completion of a new and expanded nursery, the Campus will be able to begin growing and disseminating indigenous tree seedlings and herbs, thanks to the Phoenix Project!

Academically, 341 students were enrolled in the Diploma in Agriculture and the BSc in Agriculture (crop science) Programmes, which brought the Campus students' enrollment at 358. Likewise, 23 students graduated with Diplomas in Natural Resources Management and 11 students with the BSc. in Integrated Environmental Science. A BSc Degree in Agricultural Engineering – Honors' first intake has commenced in 2023.

Similarly, Nakayale Vocational Training Centre has invested N\$4,655,933.70 for installation and connection of bulk electricity to newly constructed campus, including girls' hostels in February 2023. An amount of N\$314,400.00 was spent on procuring hostel beds and mattresses, while N\$4,715,301.83 was invested in installation of Solar (PV) System. The state of art equipment for new Electrical Engineering and ICT Workshop was installed and commissioned by experts at the value of N\$32,000,000.00.

The Government Institutions Pension Funds (GIPF) has spent N\$69,834,040.43 in end-user housing and development of housing. Likewise, N\$2,029,512.83 was spent for financial products provided to SMEs in various sectors in the Region. NORED invested N\$2,115,000 on fencing of 11 kV mini-substations, rerouting of 33 kV overhead networks in Okahao Town and cleared MV Networks that encroached into plots. Rerouted 11 kV overhead line that feeds the Town of Ruacana, through Olupaka 33 kV reclose installation, 33 kV/11 kV, 0.5 MVA Etilyasa Bulk Supply Substation Rehabilitation and 33 kV/11 kV, 0.5 MVA Onesi Bulk Supply Rehabilitation. NORED has also contributed N\$224,450.94 towards the usage of 125 K Watts of lamps in Omusati Region.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Vocational Training Centres in NORED's areas of operation, N\$6,000.00 was paid for a student who is on an internship and attached at Outapi Regional Office for four (4) months. Likewise, the Social Security Commission has invested an amount of N\$600,000.00 for construction of two classrooms with a storeroom at Omalago Primary School.

Honourable Chairperson

Honourable Members,

In conclusion, besides ongoing challenges, it is heartening for having witnessed the Ground Breaking Ceremonies of Tsandi-Omugulugwombashe Road worth N\$35,000,000.00 to bitumen standards on 22 May 2023. Likewise, construction of Tsandi-Onesi-Epalela Road to bitumen standards and Ruacana South Water Pipeline Project is still at advanced stage and we are looking forward for timely completion of the Projects.

So, I must thank our Regional and Local Authority Councillors, Traditional Leaders and Stakeholders for their continuous support in building our Region. I am convinced that together we shall succeed in accelerating improved service delivery and upholding integrity and accountability in managing affairs of the Region. The achievements which I have just shared with you in this August House are indeed the intensive efforts of all of us. We must clearly understand that no one else shall develop Omusati Region, the onus is indeed upon all of us. So, let us join hands, coordinate and remain steadfast in accomplishing these noble ideas.

Long live the people of Omusati Region!

Long live the Harambee Prosperity Plan!

Long live the Republic of Namibia!

I thank you!

