



Republic of Namibia

STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS

BY

HON. IMMANUEL SHISHIWENI SHIKONGO

REGIONAL GOVERNOR OF OMUSATI REGION

OMUSATI REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBER, OUTAPI

30 JULY 2025

Honourable Andreas Shintama, Chairperson of Management Committee;
Honourable Members of Omusati Regional Council;

Special guests

Honourable Dr Sacky Kayone, the SWAPO Party Regional Coordinator,
Omusati Region;

Honourable Erginus Endjala, Former Regional Governor of Omusati Region;
Your Worship Cllr Selma Asino, the Mayor of Outapi Town and Other
Mayors;

Local Authority Councillors present;

Esteemed Leaders of the Traditional Authorities;

Leaders of Political Parties;

Mr. Gervasius Kashindi, the Chief Regional Officer of Omusati Regional
Council;

Regional Commanders of the Uniformed Personnel;

Veterans of the Liberation Struggle

Business Communities

Heads of Government Institutions;

Senior Government Officials;

Youth Leaders;

Religious and Spiritual Leaders;

Members of the Public;

Media Practitioners;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is with great humility and profound gratitude that I stand before you as a new appointee, the Regional Governor of Omusati region.
2. Today, I am meeting with Omusati Regional Council to fulfil my Constitutional mandate of addressing the Regional Council on the state of the region, planned activities of the central government in the region, report on activities of the central government of the previous year in the region as provided for by Article 110A (5) and (6) of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia. This is a historic day marking the beginning of my term as the 5th Regional Governor of Omusati Region.
3. At the onset, I would like to thank Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the President of the Republic of Namibia for entrusting me with the responsibility of being the Regional Governor of our Region.
4. I would also like to thank my Predecessor, Honourable Erginus Endjala and other former Regional Governors of our Region for laying a solid foundation for me to build on.
5. Equally, I would like to thank the entire Political Leadership of our Region and the nine Traditional Authorities for their warm reception during my inception meetings and the continued support to the implementation of the development programmes and projects in the Region.
6. The 21st of March 2025 has ushered in the 8th Administration by the SWAPO Party under the Leadership of Her Excellency Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the President of the Republic of Namibia. As I address the Regional Council on the activities of the central government for 2024/2025 in the Region, I am

mindful of the pronouncement of the President that our execution of our duties should not be business as usual. We must be guided by the recently launched Sixth National Development Plan, the SWAPO Party Election Manifesto and the SWAPO Party Manifesto Implementation Plan.

Honourable Chairperson

Honourable Members

7. **Regarding Governance,** Omusati Region continues to enjoy the unity and peace stability. In this regard, I would like to thank our Political and Traditional Authorities for their good cooperation and collaboration as well as the notable efforts by our Security Cluster in ensuring the maintenance of law and order in the Region.
8. I therefore extend my gratitude to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security the construction of a modern Police Station at Onheleiwa in Etayi Constituency to tune of N\$9.5 million and the rehabilitation of Okahao Police Station.
9. Besides this achievement, it worrisome that the Region has recorded 34 percent increase in crime rate, with 475 cases reported in 2024/2025 compared to 354 in 2023/2024, whereby thefts and assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm are topping the crime list. Likewise, the reports on gender-based violence and suicide are alarming.

Honourable Chairperson

Honourable Members

10. **On Agriculture and water security**, I am inspired by the saying that: *“agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals and happiness”*, and that *“water is life”*.
11. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform has made significant strides in investing in the development of water infrastructure, upgrading of green scheme and promotion of food security in the Region.
- In Anamulenge, Ruacana, Tsandi and Okahao constituencies, Ministry has drilled a total of fourteen boreholes at the cost of N\$4.8 million. Nine of boreholes have been installed with solar pump systems in the Constituencies of Ruacana, Okahao, Tsandi and Onesi at an amount of N\$5.5 million. Eight boreholes were rehabilitated in the Constituencies of Ruacana, Okahao and Onesi in collaboration with Community Conservation Fund of Namibia at the cost of N\$657,483.60.
 - For the harvesting of rainwater, two earth dams were excavated to in Elim and Etayi Constituencies at the cost of N\$2.2 million. Onamatanga water supply projected has been completed. The Construction of Iitapa – Okeeholongo Rural Water Supply Phase 2A has been handed over to the contractor. These projects will ensure access to water for human and livestock consumption in our rural areas.
12. Further, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform in collaboration is executing water supply projects for Omusati Region and beyond such as:

- Upgrading of Outapi Water Purification Plant at an amount of N\$135 million.
 - Upgrading of Olushandja Water Purification Plant at an amount of N\$120 million.
 - Upgrading of Ogongo Pump Station at an amount of N\$40 million.
 - Rehabilitation of the Calueque to Oshakati water canal at the cost of about N\$90 million is near completion.
 - Replacement of water pipeline between Ogongo and Oshakati at the cost of N\$205 million, and
 - The Central North Area Water Master Plan Study to the tune of N\$35 million.
13. On the **Green Scheme**, a total of 230 hectares were put under production at Etunda Irrigation Scheme yielding a total of 2,004 tonnes of maize valued at N\$13 million. A total of 28 small-scale farming plots and 8 medium-scale farming plots were availed for interested crop producers to participate in agribusiness activities at the Scheme.
14. I would like to applaud the Environmental Investment Fund for their complementary support to the horticultural production by funding the supply of agricultural materials and equipment, including 21 water tanks and stands, 21 shade nets, installation of 3 boreholes, 50 fruit trees, assorted seeds, fertilizers, and office equipment as well as the training to Nyeka Yepumba Farmers Association in Ruacana Constituency and Onesi Constituency to the tune of N\$3 million.

Honourable Chairperson

Honourable Members

15. With regard to **food security**, our Founding President has taught us that “a nation which cannot feed itself will never be respected”. I am pleased to report that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform has:
- Supported over 14,600 farmers, mostly women with subsidies to the tune of N\$2.7 million towards the ploughing services of over 5,252 hectares, over 20 tonnes of improved seeds, over 21 tonnes of fertilizers, weeding services, grain storages, hammer mills, poultry value chain development, agricultural training and extension services.
 - Completed Okahao Veterinary Clinic including the office and staff accommodation in Okahao constituency has been completed at a cost of N\$12.2 million.
 - Supported 32 small scale fishermen and women with about 400,000 fingerlings and 26 tonnes of subsidised fish feed.
16. Furthermore, the UNAM Ogongo Campus contributed has significantly to household food security and poultry production by supplying a total of 4,360 breeding chicken to farmers in the region during the reporting period.
17. The Region has also witnessed an expansion of rice production project at UNAM Ogongo Campus from 3 hectares to 4.5 hectares which yielded a total of 15 tonnes of rice. I would like to express my appreciation to Debmarine Namibia for their generous donation of a water pump and pipes to boost the irrigation system, resulting in the expansion of the cultivated land to 7 hectares by end of 2025.

18. The Government continues to support efforts towards the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. In this regard, I would like to applaud the management of Sheya Shuushona Conservancy, Uukwaluudhi Conservancy and Uukolonkadhi Conservancy for generating a combined revenue of N\$468,494.00. The largest part of this money was distributed to the community.

Honourable Chairperson

Honourable Members

19. The **sport industry** plays a major economic role nationally and globally. The Government of the Republic of Namibia places sport among the seven Priority Areas of development. In this regard:

- Okahao Town Council has invested an amount of N\$7.6 million in the construction of a Sports Stadium at Okahao Town.
- Ruacana Town Council has invested an amount of N\$435,000.00 in the designing of the structural plan for the sport facilities and installation of higher mast light at the sport field.
- Efforts are under being made to renovate the sport facilities of Mwaala Senior Secondary School.
- I would also like to congratulate the promotion of community-based sport activities like the horse racing at Onamatanga and many others.

20. **Youth empowerment** is another priority of our government. In an effort to reverse the effect of high rate of unemployment among the youth and to drive the economic development

- 51 Youth Income Generating activities were supported with materials and equipment to establish and run their business activities
- 52 youths underwent a six - months Basic Computer Skills and Fabric Design training.
- 680 youths were provided with psychosocial and clinical support at the Outapi Youth Friendly Clinic.
- Over 1,500 youths were equipped with soft skills to help combat HIV, intimate partner violence, and other social challenges. The initiative was carried out with the support of the USAID.

Honourable Chairperson

Honourable Members

21. Let me turn to **Quality Education and Training**. President Nelson Mandela, the Former President of South Africa once said, *“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”*. Hence, our Government prioritises quality education and training by ensuring access to free education and vocational training at public institutions.

22. During the period under review, the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture through August Twenty-Six Construction CC has constructed classroom blocks at fifteen schools including Ombathi Combined School, Oukwandongo Combined School, Ovikange Combined School and Ondeka Combined School at the cost of N\$30 million.

23. Furthermore, 45 trainees underwent training in basic tailoring, 617 adults were trained in dish wash and perfume production and 563 farmers in basic horticulture.
24. I am proud to report that Omusati Region has performed well in the National Examinations for 2024. For the Namibia Secondary School Certificate at Ordinary Level, the Region was ranked third (3rd). An improvement from 8th position in 2023. For the Namibia Secondary School Certificate at Advanced Subsidiary Level, we were ranked second nationally, with 72.1 per cent pass rate, maintaining a second position since 2023.
25. In the area of vocational education and training, Nakayale Vocational Training Centre has introduced new full-time national qualification in Transport, Warehousing and Logistics (NQF Level 2–5) and Electronics (NQF Level 2–4). Additionally, the Welding and Metal Fabrication programme, the Clothing Production programme, and a Diploma in Electrical General have been approved and resourced to provide learning opportunities for employed students. The Centre has also expanded its Blended Distance Learning programme to include the Transport, Warehousing and Logistics Diploma (NQF Levels 3–5).
26. We are living in the era of climate change and its adverse consequences for the habitants and livelihoods. During the period under review, the Region has experienced severe floods, which affected a total of 33,060 learners and 1,239 teachers, and led to the closure of many schools and infrastructural damages.

The Region has also witnessed the flooding and relocation of the whole village of Otjihitua in the Onesi and Ruacana Constituencies.

I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, our President for visiting the relocation site at Etunda and the humanitarian support. I would also like to thank the Office of the Prime Minister, Namibian Defence Force, Namibian Police force and all stakeholders for their support during the emergency situations of flood and drought. The flood vulnerabilities have caused the Office of the Regional Governor to prioritise the construction of access roads to Government institutions and service centres in the rural areas such as schools and clinics.

Honourable Chairperson

Honourable Members

27. The **Creative Industries** is central to our response to alleviate unemployment, poverty and inequality in our society. It is imperative that Government harnesses the talents of our youths and people of Omusati Region through the Arts and Creative Industries and ensure that this industry is fully established throughout the Region.
28. Our Local Authorities are the engines of regional and local development. It is gratifying that they are working hard to create opportunities and improve the livelihood and life experiences of their residence and visitors.
 - Okahao Town Council has renovated the old Okahao Open Market at the cost of N\$332 thousand to create new marketing opportunities and experience for traders and customers.

- Ruacana Town Council has enhanced security at its Business Park by improving the fence at the cost of N\$65,000.00.
- In direct response to His Excellency the President's call for government entities to prioritize employment creation, particularly for the youth, Outapi Town Council has taken decisive action to address both economic and environmental concerns, the Council has hired a total 60 youth as casual labourers to clean the streets and the open markets as part of its waste management services at the cost N\$296,371.90.
- Outapi Town Council has hired 16 youth to provide security services at the open markets and the Olufuko Cultural Festival Centre to the value of N\$461,688.99.
- Oshikuku Town Council is constructing a restaurant at Oshikuku Cultural Heritage Centre Phase 4 to the tune of N\$4.9 million.
- Tsandi Village Council on the other hand has invested an amount of N\$2.2 million in the construction of the open market.

Honourable Chairperson

Honourable Members

29. **Quality Health and Social Welfare** is critical to the wellbeing of our people. During the reporting period, the Ministry of Health and Social Services has among others constructed and inaugurated the Oshikulufitu Primary Health Care Clinic at the cost of N\$19.4 million. Greatly contributing to access to quality public healthcare in the Region. Health facilities were also maintained and renovated for an amount of N\$539,275.20 and essential medical equipment was procured to the value of N\$3.8 million.

30. Besides these efforts, the Omusati Region continues to experience malaria outbreak. A total of 3,755 positive cases were confirmed. Sadly, seventeen (17) deaths were also reported due to malaria complications.
31. This year, the Ministry of Health and Social Services will prioritise Maternal and Neonatal Health, increase access to Primary Health Care and Quality Health care services. As per the Cabinet directive the Ministry will implement the Universal Health Coverage Policy.

Honourable Chairperson,

Honourable Members,

32. Allow me to report on **Land, Housing and Sanitation**. Infrastructure is the backbone of economic growth as it improves access to basic services, such as urban land, housing, water and sanitation. I therefore agree with the saying that *“Investment in infrastructure is a long-term requirement for growth and a long-term factor that will make growth sustainable”*.
33. In this regard, I would like to report on the progress made in the provision of urban land, housing and sanitation, mostly in our five local authorities, namely, Outapi, Okahao, Ruacana, Oshikuku and Tsandi, as well as in the Settlement Areas of Okalongo, Ogongo and Onesi.
34. Outapi Town Council has invested an amount of N\$6 million in the:

- Provision of consultancy services for Land Survey for Reidentification and replacement of lost pegs on several plots at extension 12 Outapi Town at the cost of N\$19,683.95.
- Surveying of 301 plots at Nakayale Extension 12 and the remainder of Outapi town at the cost of N\$527,669.78.
- Construction of Water infrastructure at Outapi Extension 6, 12, 13, 18 and Nakayale extension 2, at the cost of N\$3.4 million.
- Upgrading of an existing gravel road to a bitumen standard at Extension 5 (Onhimbu Location) at the cost of N\$1.8 million.
- Gravelling of roads and construction of Culvert at Extension 15 at the cost of N\$299,411.70

35. Okahao Town Council has invested an amount of N\$47 million in the:

- Provision of electrical reticulation and street lighting services to 50 erven in Okahao Extension 13 for ultra and low-income earners under the Decentralised Build Together Programme at the cost of N\$1.5 million.
- Upgrading of Fidel Castro Street Phase 2 from gravel to bitumen standard at cost of N\$1.4 million.
- Construction of water reticulation and gravel roads in Kashenda Extension 3, Okahao Town at the cost of N\$1.6 million.
- Construction of Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 1 at Okahao Town at the cost of N\$35 million.
- Construction of Okahao Town Council Office Extension Phase 2 at an amount of N\$7.8 million.

36. Ruacana Town Council has invested an amount of N\$16.7 million in the:
- Surveying of the informal settlement in Ruacana Town to the tune of N\$2 million.
 - Construction of sewer services at the new extension for 104 erven to the tune of N\$4 million.
 - Establishment of a new township in Ruacana Town, involved compensation of landowners to the cost of N\$9 million.
 - Designing of services for the new extension in Ruacana Town at an amount of N\$1.5 million.
 - Designing of an additional bungalow to the tune of N\$ 235,000.00
 - Roads Maintenance in Ruacana Town to the tune of N\$1.4 million
37. Oshikuku Town Council has invested an amount of N\$17.5 million in the:
- Construction of services infrastructure services (sewer, oxidation ponds, roads, storm water channels) at an amount of N\$16,6 million.
 - Construction of the new Oshikuku Pounding Kraal to the tune of N\$ 169,050.00.
 - Construction of ten low-cost houses under the Decentralised Build Together Programme at the cost of N\$718,908.29.
38. Tsandi Village Council in collaboration with the Road Fund Administration has invested an amount of N\$265,000.00 in the maintenance of roads at Extension 2 and Omugulugombashe Road.
39. Omusati Regional Council has invested an amount of N\$18.3 million in the:

- Construction of services infrastructure services (water, roads and sewer) in Onandjaba Village Council at the cost of N\$12 million.

Onandjaba Village Council is our recently proclaimed new local authority which will hold its first local authority elections in November 2025. Congratulations to the Omusati Regional Council for a job well done. I call on the residents of Onandjaba Village to prepare for the elections and ensure that they pay their bills to ensure that they will start on a strong financial foundation.

- Construction of the Onandjaba Village Council Office Phase 1 at the cost of N\$3.7 million;
- Construction of services infrastructure services (water, roads and sewer) in Onesi Settlement at the cost of N\$1.4 million.
- Construction of 15 low-cost houses under the Decentralised Build Together Programme in Onandjaba Village Council (5), Ogongo (5) and Onesi Settlement (5) at the cost of N\$1.2 million.

40. In addition, Omusati Regional Council has constructed a total of 133 pit latrines for the rural communities at the cost of N\$2.7 million, creating a total of 48 temporary jobs.

41. The Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy in collaboration with NORED has invested an amount of N\$3.8 million in the electrification of Extension 12 at Tsandi Village Council. While Omufituweelo Primary School and the surrounding localities were also electrified to the tune of N\$1.9 million. The Ministry is also working on the electrification of schools at Nangula, Okatseidhi, Amaupa, Oshitha Shembungu and Ontanda at the cost of N\$15 million. The plan for the construction of the Off-Grid electricity at Itapa,

Uutsathima and Onamatanga villages at the cost of N\$21.1 million for the 2025/2026 Financial Year is at advanced stage.

42. As we record progress in the implementation of development projects, It is disheartening that the implementation of some projects is still at a slow pace, such as the upgrading of the Epalela – Onesi – Tsandi Road, the construction of Outapi Sport Complex, the construction of the Regional Offices for the Directorate of Education, the construction of the Informal Market at Okalongo Settlement, to mention, but a few.
43. I would like to thank the Administrators from all Offices, Ministries, Agencies, Regional Councils and Local Authorities for coordinating the implementation of development plans and at the same time echo the sentiments of our President in urging Public Servants to redouble their efforts in implementing Government programmes and projects.

Honourable Chairperson,

Honourable Members,

44. As I conclude my statement, I would like to emphasise on the implementation of all development initiatives which are aimed to grow the regional economy and improve the livelihoods and living standards of our people. I therefore call for the full involvement of all stakeholders, particularly the Offices, Ministries, Agencies, Omusati Regional Council and the all-Local Authorities to ensure timely execution, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of Government programmes and projects. Which are:

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- Promoting good governance through the formulation and implementation of coherent development and modernisation plans, provision of required resources and support law enforcement initiatives against corruption and other social ills.
- Construction of Sports Complex Category 3 in Outapi and basic sports facilities in all 12 constituencies. The Outapi Sport Complex is long overdue and causes frustration among our youths.
- Expansion of Nakayale VTC and efforts to attract other Institutions of High Learning such as NUST, IUM and UNAM with extended faculties, and other more to the region to empower the youth through knowledge and skills development projects.
- Promotion of agro-processing initiatives aimed to develop the agricultural value chains in the region. The launch of the 1,000 cattle standing capacity feedlot and related infrastructure at Etunda Irrigation Scheme which will be launched tomorrow 31st July 2025. This is a move in the right direction.
- Upgrading of Etaka - Uuvudhiya Water Canal through strategic funding and development initiative.
- Expansion of rainwater harvesting projects to construct strategic water reservoirs, excavating earth dams and rehabilitating traditional wells.
- Construction of services infrastructure in urban areas and rural areas including access roads leading to schools, clinics, and other vital public service centres.
- Promotion of ecotourism potentials of the region, including the development of Ruacana Waterfall, upgrading of the Omugulugombashe

Shrine and Heritage Centre, and the opening of Otjivarunda Gate to Etosha National Park for a direct tourist route to the Region.

45. Finally, I would like to thank you Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen for listening to me, and at the same time reassure you of my commitment and collaboration to take the development of our region forward as envisaged in our National Development Plans and Swapo Party Manifesto Implementation Plans. I wish you, Honourable Chairperson and the entire Regional Council a fruitful year ahead.

I thank you.

