

# **REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**



## **STATE OF REGION ADDRESS**

**BY HONOURABLE LAWRENCE ALUFEA SAMPOFU**

**GOVERNOR OF ZAMBEZI REGION**

**ZAMBEZI REGIONAL COUNCIL AUDITORIUM**

**4 JUNE 2019**

- Hon. Beaven Munali, Chairperson of Zambezi Regional Council & Councilor of Judea Lyabboloma Constituency
- Hon. Bernard Sibalatani (MP), the Deputy Chairperson of National Council, & Councilor of Katima Urban Constituency
- All Honourable Regional and Local Councilors present here today,
- Hon. Georgina Mwiya-Simataa, Mayor of Katima Mulilo Town
- Madam Regina Ndopu-Lubinda, Chief Regional Officer; ZRC
- All invited guests
- Members of the media
- Ladies and gentlemen.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Allow me to begin by saluting your commitment into what we are gathered here for this morning. It is because of your sweat that I am able to stand here today to report back on the successes and failures of this Region.

The year 2018/19 was a year of reckoning as declared by Dr. Hage Geingob the President of the Republic of Namibia in his statement at the opening of the 2018 Legal Year. We are gathered here this morning, to review, to focus back and see whether our efforts were economically driven towards developing the region so that as we go through the year of accountability 2019/20, we know which direction to drive the train of development.

This State of the Region Address will focus on areas of Economic Advancement, such as Infrastructure Development; Human Capital Development; Social Progression and other developments not falling under the stated clusters.

## **2. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT**

For the region or country to move towards economic independence, it is important that we engage our economic resources with strength and swiftness. At the onset of 2019/20 financial year I am delighted to mention the following few indicators within Ministries/Offices/Agencies, where progress were made towards economic advancement during the previous financial year 2018/19.

## 2.1. Infrastructure Development

There is much progress going on when it comes to the upgrading of working/learning environment of most of the organisations/schools in the regions in terms of offices and classrooms as well as accommodation for learners and civil servants. Improved quality of life for the current and future generation depends on improved infrastructure.

We have a number of completed and uncompleted projects in the region that are advancing and hampering progress in some areas. Some projects dates back from 2012/13FY but yet still not completed. Despite these down falls, committed entities have worked hard to foresee progression in the region to which we can point to and enjoy the fruits of the Namibian nation's independence.

✚ We count on the completion of Lusese Clinic that have been upgraded into a standard Primary Health Care Clinic, the finalization of the long overdue Ngoma Primary Health Care Clinic and the construction of a Primary Health Care Clinic at Kaenda. These three clinics were officially inaugurated by the Minister of Health, Dr. Kalumbi Shangula in March this year.

✚ The completion of Kabbe South and Linyanti Constituency Offices is another regional milestone, an achievement aimed at bringing services closer to the people. It is for the community to utilise these resources brought in their proximity.

✚ Learner's accommodation and learning facilities continue to be a challenge but provisions have been realized to curb some situations. *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* **Nelson Mandela**


**The following have been achieved in the education sector and we hope to see the completion of those that are not yet completed:**

- The construction of seven (7) classrooms for Pre-Primary at Sesheke CS, Maunga and Liswani III Junior Primary
- 22 classrooms are being constructed for the Revised Curriculum in eleven (11) schools though only six (6) have been completed so far.
- Four (4) classrooms are being constructed at Ngweze Primary School as a donation from the Embassy of Japan.
- Renovations of classrooms at Ikumwe, Gunkwe and Malindi are underway.
- Renovations of 3 hostel blocks have been completed at Mafwila and Sanjo Senior Secondary Schools respectively.
- Ngoro hostel is at an advanced stage and Luhonono hostel is not progressing at all.

✚ **Safety and Security**, in the previous SORA, there was a mention of Sangwali C-Class Police Station and Barracks; Katima Mulilo Police Barracks and Kongola Fort nearing completion. I stand here happy to inform the region that these facilities were officially inaugurated in

October 2018 and are currently functional. The problem of accommodation to members of the Special Field Force in these areas of operation is now something of the past.

The Ministry is committed to the responsibility of maintaining law and order, protecting lives and properties for peace and political stability. This is visible through several operations conducted throughout the year and law breakers brought to book and charged for their offenses. We thank community members that are joining forces with law enforcement agencies to combat crime and all sorts of criminal activities.

 **Bukalo Village Council** is developing well, in addition to what NHE/Mass Housing Project has done in terms of housing facilities, Build Together is currently building 20 houses that are at roof level. Plots have been allocated to Shack Dwellers Federation, the area has been surveyed and the plan is already approved. NORED has also in its social endeavor, constructed three public toilets. The process of securing the dumping site is in the final stage as it has been registered with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism for approval.

### **Proclamation of Roads – Road Networks**

Most of our main roads are well maintained despite potholes here and there. The Regional Roads Board has suggested some roads to be approved by Roads Authority that are meant to connect some areas for smooth transportation of people and goods. The


constructions of Namalubi-Isizi-Luhonono road is ongoing, 22 km of tarmac from Namalubi to Isizi and 2 km to Kalimbeza rice project are completed and open to the public. We also see the construction of Bukalo-Sifuha road which is ongoing.


### **Rural Electrification**

Rural electrification is ongoing though a snail's pace due to high costs of electrical supplies. Small schools like Muketela, Samudono, Mbilajwe, Mbambazi and Sauzuo Combined School were energized under the same period.

## **2.2. Social Progression**


The availability of infrastructure is the means of upgrading and meeting the needs of our society. It is by this means that our government is not at ease to ensure that land is serviced and available to people, water and electricity; health facilities are easily accessible to all. To mention a few if not all during the year in review


 During the year under review, statistics shows that 109 Namibians returned to Namibia from Dukwi Refugee Camp in Botswana and 1 from Zambia. In a democratic Namibia, the sons and daughters of the land have been welcomed and integrated into society by providing them with small grants to start over.

 **Fisheries** - The Zambezi River fishery is estimated at **5000 metric tons** harvested every year and Ministry of Fisheries and Marine

Resources continues to promote the role of inland capture fisheries and aquaculture to enhance food and nutritional security, reduce poverty, generate employment, improve rural livelihoods and increase investment.


**Education.** UNICEF has introduced the School Led Total Sanitation (SLTS) in 30 schools, this is a way of improving sanitation in schools and ensure that the region becomes open defecation free. I call upon other offices/agencies/directorates to join forces and expand this exercise region wide. The GRN with the technical assistance from the World Food Programme, the school feeding programme is provided in some primary and combined schools, catering a number of 26,094 learners across the board to curb hunger and improve nutrition. With this provision, the programme allows children from poor household not to attend classes on empty stomachs.


 **Ministry of Finance,** Customs And Excise; Being one of the Law Enforcement Agency mandated to protect society in respect of the movement of goods and people, and primarily to collect external revenue, operations and river patrols to curb illegal activities were conducted without fail. The Directorate collected revenue exceeding N\$62 million. Export and import documents being processed across all border entries, Wenela, Ngoma and Impalila. Those contravening the law being apprehended and charged accordingly.

 **Veterans Affairs;** with the spirit of keeping the National Liberation Struggle alive, the Ministry of Veterans Affairs in the Office of the Vice




President continues providing grants to registered veterans including dependents of deceased veterans in different categories. 636 registered veterans including dependents of deceased veterans receiving these grants.


 **Ministry of Gender & Social Welfare;** the ministry is behind the wheel that drives towards uplifting the standard of living to the less privileged. Annual project funding continues and so far 14 income generating projects were approved for funding 2018/19 FY. To ensure early childhood learning, the Ministry is subsidising 76 pre-school Educators and a total of 24,684 orphans and vulnerable children are receiving social grants.


 **Ministry of Land Reform;** It is indeed a great achievement to see different ministries putting the wellbeing of our communities at the forefront. The Ministry of Land Reform procured and distributed fifty (50) mould board ploughs for the San Community in Bwabwata National Park. One beneficiary have been resettled, while 69 communal land rights are registered and 4 rights of leasehold.

## **2.3. Human Capital Development**

 **The Education Sectors** continue slightly though not to the targeted goal, producing results from both Primary and Secondary Levels. There was an 85% pass rate in primary level and 57.5% secondary level obtained in 2018. Records proves that at least 24.4% of 1,517 learners of Grade 12 achieved tertiary entry requirement and 54.2%

of 2977 Grade 10 learners progressed to grade 11. Allow me to urge all of us to ensure that we put all resources aligned to education in good use in order to double or triple these figures this year.

 **Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service**, the Ministry as its mandate, continues implementing programmes that include creation and promotion of skills training to out of school youth. These are programmes aimed at making them employable and self-reliant. Though the region doesn't have a youth skill training centre, the Multipurpose Youth Resource Centre continues providing skills training to unemployed and out of school youth in a form of short courses such as Computer and tailoring. A total of 71 youth were trained in this regard additional to that 20 Children of the Liberation Struggle were selected to undergo Civic and Skills Training at Berg Aukas and Kaikhanagab Skills Training Centres.

 **Ohorongo Cement** in conjunction with Katima Build It, managed to impart knowledge to 16 community members from all 8 Constituencies. This one day training was based on brick making, Constituency Offices should continue following and assist where possible those who were trained to keep track to ensure that there are able to continue using the skills learned and apply it in order to have self-reliant members of the community. This was embarked on encouraging the building or improving the standard of houses in the rural areas and promoting the construction of permanent structures that are not easily damaged by rain.

### 3. CHALLENGES

- ✚ Infrastructure – Project delays; some Contractors have a tendency of not adhering to deadlines and producing poor quality work such as Ngoma Community Resource Centre to mention a few.
- ✚ The inland fisheries resource is under severe pressure from individuals who exploit the resource for financial benefits at the detriment of local communities that depend on fish for their survival. To this effect a total number of 70 fines were issued to offenders for illegal fishing and the confiscation of **PROHIBITED** fishing gears and fish by the Fisheries Inspectors.
- ✚ The Education sectors faces numerous challenges such as lack of qualified Teachers specifically in Mathematics and Science subjects, lack of potable water, dilapidated classrooms, use of drug substance by learners and educators.
- ✚ Youth – Lack of full-fledged Youth Centre i.e. youth hostel & training tools limits the inclusion of youth from rural areas that do not have accommodation in town and also limits the number of enrolment. Budgetary constraints have also contributed to most programs intended for youth development to fallout.
- ✚ Safety and Security, construction C-Class Police Stations of Greenwell Matongo (Katima Mulilo, Chinchimani, Bukalo, Sibbinda

and A-Class SFF Police Sub-Stations at Kamenga and Muyako are on hold due to lack of funds.

- ✚ Ministry of Finance, Customs and Excise; Smuggling of items such as maize grain, maize meal and other agricultural products and commercial goods remain a challenge due to permeable of our borders.

#### **4. WAY FORWARD**

- ✚ Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources should ensure that identified Fish Protected Area/Fish Reserves to be operational to that cause to ensure food security. The Ministry needs to do more than what it is doing to make aquaculture a success in Zambezi Region for the benefit of the fish farmers and ensure that aquaculture does not remain in infancy, as is the case now.
- ✚ The Fisheries Inspectors to continue intensifying law enforcement to ensure sustainable fisheries in our Region as illegal fishing still remains a problem.
- ✚ It is important to ensure the construction of the Youth Hostel in the Region that will provide and ensure the smooth running of youth programmes and training. Youth Centre can serve as an income regenerating facility.

- ✚ Enforcement Agencies to promote public awareness to enhance compliance with the laws; ensure clearance of bushes near borders and the introduction/ implementation of One Border Stop concept.
- ✚ We would like to see the extension of the railway line from Grootfontein to Katima Mulilo for trade and development in the Region with neighbouring countries.
- ✚ Completion of Katima Farm to be the second Green Scheme in the region.
- ✚ Revamping of old Aqua-Culture facilities and introducing new ones in the Constituencies
- ✚ Embarking upon setting up timber manufacturing plants to avoid illegal trade and exporting raw timber.
- ✚ Increasing rice production and marketing of Kalimbeza Rice Project.
- ✚ Inviting Investors in mining, sugar plantations and increasing Green Schemes in the region for food security.
- ✚ We urge the staff members of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to monitor and educate the performance of our conservancies, their cash flow and projects to communities.
- ✚ We have to work hand-in-glove with the Ministry of External Relations and Cooperation in furthering our trade relations that could lead to signing of Memorandum of Understanding and Twinning Agreements with other countries.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the Regional and Local Authorities should practice good governance, innovation, rule of law, ethical conduct and be responsible in managing public affairs and resources for the benefit of all communities. Public and private entities at regional and local levels are required to implement, monitor and evaluate, National Development Plans, Government Capital Projects and Strategies, Harambee Prosperity Plan, SWAPO Manifesto and other relevant benchmarks on which our efficiency, effectiveness, strength and weaknesses are measured.

As leaders in the Zambezi Region we must be mindful of the fact that, we must steer the development of our region. Therefore we must make sure every dollar sent to our region by the Central Government must be put to good use and no funds are sent back to treasury. It does not augur well for us to return funds which are meant to develop this region in order to fight poverty and uplift the standard of living of the grassroots to benefit our people.

Let us join hands in fighting against tribalism, bad attitudes which are a danger to service delivery, laziness and corruption in our region. We must stop misuse of government resources and vandalism of public properties.

Finally, this is the Year of Accountability, I urge each and every one with a national assignment to be accountable with what is placed in your hands, as declared by His Excellency Dr Hage G. Geingob, we must account of our actions and to the Namibian Nation.

**I THANK YOU ALL FOR ATTENTION**