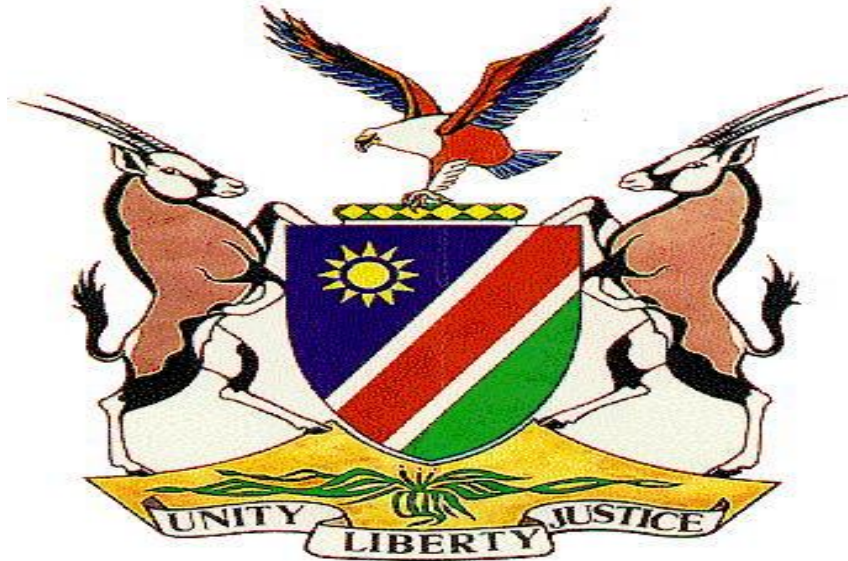


REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



OFFICE OF THE ZAMBEZI GOVERNOR

STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS

BY

HONOURABLE LAWRENCE ALUFEA SAMPOFU

ZAMBEZI REGIONAL COUNCIL AUDITORIUM

6 JUNE 2022

10H00

- Director of Ceremony,
- Honourable Matengu Simushi: Chairperson of the Zambezi Regional Council,
- Honourable Regional Councillors,
- Your Worship the Mayor,
- Honourable Local Authority Councillors,
- The Chief Regional Officer – ZRC,
- Police Regional Commander,
- The Commanding Officer, 262 MOT Inf. Battalion
- Chief Executive Officer of Katima Mulilo Town Council,
- Chief Executive Officer of Bukalo Village Council,
- Distinguished Traditional Leaders,
- Distinguished Representative's from the O/M/A,
- Distinguished Civil Society Partners,
- Esteemed Members of the Media,
- Fellow Citizens of the Zambezi Region,
- Ladies and Gentlemen:

Honourable Chairperson

It is that time of year again when we act in line with Article 110, subsection 5 and 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia which mandates Governors to deliver the State of Region Address. It is the time allotted to account on activities carried out during 2021/22FY. I stand here supported by all of you for the job well done amid economic challenges faced by the country but we have been encouraged to do much with little for development and to fight poverty.

The Year 2021 was a year of Resilience as declared by the Head of State. Indeed flexibility to stand firm in all seasons. You are all aware that in the process of recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the region suffered losses of prominent leaders in society of which some are still haunting the community of Zambezi to this end. May their souls continue resting in peace.

Allow me before I go much further to thank the people of Zambezi for the unity that prevails in the region despite differences here and there. The peace born by independent Namibia is manifested through the tabling of matters of concerns to authorities for amicable solutions. Some groups may be at the onset of disturbing peace, but let us continue discouraging such practices.

As civil and public office bearers, we are expected to maintain and strengthen the public's trust and confidence in government by demonstrating the highest ethical standards.

Honourable Chairperson and Distinguished members present, with the provision of the Central Government, Zambezi RC, Local Authorities, Offices, Ministries and Agencies implemented projects which I stand to report on.

Zambezi Region received funding appropriated by the state for developmental purposes. Because of COVID-19 the regional execution was below expectation as projects could not be completed on time as the steel industry and importation of material were made difficult by lockdowns. Despite that, some capital projects have been realised and completed.

The up-earthing of platforms for Nankuntwe, Muzii, and Mpukano schools projects is ongoing, the documentation and the environmental clearance certification of all the sites was obtained whilst the contractor is expected to be appointed soon. Construction of six (6) community hostels at Lusese, Ibbu, Nsundano, Sachona, Linyanti and Sesheke schools were undertaken.

Education raises productivity and creativity as well as stimulates entrepreneurship and technological advances. It is imperative to invest in education. I reported last year about a school that was established at Nova settlement, three (3) classrooms have been completed whilst the planning to construct four (4) classrooms for Pre-Primary and six (6) additional classrooms have been approved and under evaluation. The renovated classrooms at Sibbinda and Kanono Combined School funded under the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project were handed over in October 2021. Caprivi Secondary School is in its final

stages of renovation under the African Development Bank programme to an amount of approximately N\$67 million.

The renovations of Katima Mulilo Teachers Resource Centre, Ngweze Primary and Secondary School have been approved. The construction of Masokotwani and Liselo hostel, classrooms, laboratory and computer labs aided by the Chinese Embassy, have been started and scheduled for completion within 12 calendar months.

Academic

There has been a marginable improvement in the 2021 regional academic performance for Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Ordinary Level (NSSCO) and Namibia Senior Secondary Advanced Subsidiary (NSSCAS). The region managed to qualify 491 learners to NSSCAS in 2021 as compared to 244 in 2020 a great improvement as the number doubled. This improvement has necessitated an addition of two more schools (Kizito College and Sangwali SSS) offering Advanced Subsidiary (AS) or Grade 12. The Directorate has identified Caprivi Senior Secondary School to be developed into a school of excellence.

There has been average performance in Junior Primary whereas grade 3 performed above the regional target of 65% by obtaining 80%. However, Regional performance still needs major improvement in intermediate and senior secondary grades. I therefore call upon all stakeholders to put more effort as we cannot achieve sustainable economic development without substantial investment in human capital.

Health

In the strain of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Health sector achieved the following:

- The construction of the 12 bed Isolation Unit was completed
- Installation and expansion of the oxygen supply with assistance from Bank of Namibia (This includes 1 x Oxygen tank supplied, with additional oxygen lines to Neonatal Ward and repairs of leaking oxygen lines in various wards.
- Installation of oxygen tank at Isolation Ward with support from the University of Namibia (UNAM)
- Creation of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at Katima Mulilo District Hospital
- Construction of Malengalenga PHC Clinic started at a cost of N\$ 17 281 387.47
- The Directorate received various medical equipment such as Ventilators, BP Monitors and ECG Machines.

In response to the National fight against the pandemic, the Region started administering COVID-19 vaccination on 10th April 2021 and a total of 8,471 (13.4%) have been vaccinated with the first dose of while 4,031 (6.4%) have received their second doses and 779 (1.2%) have completed their booster dose. The schedule complete stands at 12,241 (19.3%). I take this opportunity to encourage the people of Zambezi to get vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccinations are available at all public health facilities and Enkehouse private hospital.

ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

The Region is almost entirely surrounded by foreign countries. In the northwest it borders the Cuando Cubango Province of Angola, in the north, it borders the Western Province of Zambia, while in the south, it borders the

north-west district of Botswana. Being strategically located, the cargo volume handled by NAMRA through Katima Mulilo and Ngoma Border Posts recorded a decreased revenue collections of N\$77million. Import declarations were 15,900, while exports declarations increased to 19,672.

The Immigration and Border Control recorded a number of 36,286 arrivals and 33,316 departures at Katima Mulilo border post, 12,297 arrivals and 13,589 departures at Ngoma border post while Impalila border post recorded 2092 arrivals and 2318 departures.

There is therefore a great need for government/private sector to engage, and prioritise the realisation of the One Stop Border Post as it has been initiated to accelerate trade.

Agriculture

The Agriculture sector is one key player in the economic sphere and received funds through the Ministry of Agriculture to support farmers. An amount of N\$1.4 million was allocated for **National Horticulture Support Program** and 63 farmers were subsidized. Under Poultry Value Chain the amount of N\$357,000.00 was allocated and 34 farmers benefited. Under **Small Stock Distribution and Development in Communal Areas** 20 beneficiaries selected and the distribution of 420 goats was carried out. The Ministry of Agriculture continues with the monitoring program. NAMSIP have certified 75 farmers who have been trained to plant mahangu and maize seeds in the region. The Ministry also provided maize seeds and assisted with ploughing services to 30 households.

The region registered 541 customary land rights, 2 occupational land rights and 4 leasehold land rights. The directorate managed to collect an amount of N\$56 261.02 from Leaseholders for annual rental fees.

The Kalimbeza Rice project planted a total of 79 hectares of which 59 hectares was for IRGA rice and 20 hectares of Super rice during the 2021/2022 cropping season. Irrigation was distracted of the usage of one pump which could not supply the required amount of water to the plantation. Harvesting of rice that was ready at the beginning of January was delayed due to heavy rains and the combine harvester that was broken, the process only started in March resulting in a loss due to shattering from overripe and bird attack.

Zambezi Horticulture Producers Association (ZAHOPA) has organised indigenous farmers across the region for a sustainable food security and are doing very well. ZAHOPA has divided Zambezi into four Production Zones: South, West, East and Central and have broken down the four production zones into eight clusters using political constituencies. Through production zones and clusters the organisation started promoting organized production by aggregating on uniform inputs like seeds to collectively take advantage of pollination and soil conditioning in order to up-scale and yield better quality crops.

I am so glad to report that small scale farmers have imaged to embrace the food basket concept. We call upon investors and private entities to avail their support in the agriculture sector as Zambezi have the potential to feed the nation.

Katima Mulilo Export Abattoir is gradually picking momentum to serve the plight of livestock farmers. The first intake took place on 7 May 2021 with the first slaughter on 8 June 2021. 732 cattle were slaughtered translating to about N\$4.3 million financial injection into the region's economy. The abattoir served about 143 farmers.

The region is prone to FMD occurrences causing bottlenecks to the operations of the abattoir. The Directorate of Veterinary Services has annual preparedness programs for FMD outbreaks and restriction measures are often applied to mitigate animal diseases from affecting the entire region. The operations of the quarantine and abattoir have so far resumed after the lifting of restrictions in February 2022.

Tourism

The Zambezi Region is a gateway to some SADC member countries like Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. With the coming and creation of the Kavango Zambezi Trans Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA), the Region is well placed in tourism arena. The Region is just 200 km from the tourist hubs of Livingstone-Zambia, Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe and 120 km from Kasane in Botswana where we could tap more tourists to our tourism destinations in Namibia. The Zambezi Tourism Forum is on board reviving and putting the region's tourist attractions on the map.

Trade

Trade in forest products such as Devils Claw, honey and wood products continue to serve as important income generating activities within our communities. Over N\$350 thousand was generated as benefit for local

communities in Community forests in the region. Community Forests received grants of about N\$180 thousand from NNF (Namibia Nature Foundation) as support during COVID-19 pandemic. Sikanjabuka community forest received N\$ 736 thousand funded by NILALEG project and a hammer mill was purchased.

SOCIAL PROGRESSION

The Harambee Prosperity Plan Pillar 3 embarks on refining human development working towards zero death from hunger, improved access to healthcare, quality education and arresting gender based violence. The region attained the following in upgrading the livelihood of our communities:

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

18 projects benefited from the Micro–Finance and Food Security Programmes, to the tune of N\$ 538,462.00. Projects ranging from vegetable gardens, hammer mills, water and electricity provision were implemented. An amount of N\$673 thousand was allocated for the provision of sanitation facilities within and the project is expected to finish within this financial year.

The Division of Gender Equality Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare assisted 8 beneficiaries (5 women & 3 Men), 1 from each constituency who benefited from the 2021/22 income generating project equipment. The construction of three (3) Early Childhood Development Centres at Sibbinda, Lusese and Lizauli that started in 2019/2020 were completed and are all functional. Each centre has been furnished with kindergarten chairs and tables procured at a cost of N\$35,000. The centres have 76 Educators who receive monthly subsidy allowance of N\$1500.

A total of 491 children started receiving state grants additional to those on the system already. 295 Old age pension grants were approved and 108 new disability grants were also approved.

YOUTH PROGRESSION

The Directorate of Youth continue to empower youth by providing basic skills in areas of Horticulture, tailoring and computer skills. Twenty five (25) youth undertook training in computer and tailoring during 2021/22 financial year and 5 are on the ongoing horticulture program operated at the Resource Centre for income generation and transfer of skills to communities for subsistence living.

Budgetary limitations have hindered the sport sectors to carry out a number of activities during the 2021/22FY. With determinations, Zambezi Athletes participated in two competitions sponsored by Athletics Namibia held in Swakopmund where they won 5 gold medals and two Silver medals. Amid economic challenges, the region is determined to support Athletes to enhance the lives of those involved and bring more on board that they may abstain from social ills.

Civil Registration

Sub-Regional offices for the registration of birth and Death certificates were opened at Linyanti and Impalila. The Regional Office issued 4036 birth certificates of which 2261 were timely birth (age 0-1 year) and 1775 late birth registrations (1 year and older). 2724 Identity cards were produced and 794 deaths recorded and issued with death certificates.

COVID-19 Relief Measure

Pitch Resilience Grant Scheme Programme: As part of the 2021 COVID-19 Relief Measures, supported 26 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises with financial support from 1st and 2nd –rounds pitching for Resilience grant scheme programme through German development agency, GIZ, in collaboration with the Ministry of Industrialization and Trade.

An amount of N\$406,000 was allocated to the region of which N\$205 thousand and N\$201 thousand were received in the 1st and 2nd round respectively. The programme aimed at stabilizing micro, small and medium sized enterprises country-wide, which have suffered severe losses due to a sharp drop on account of the spread of COVID-19 and regulations put in place.

Marginalized Communities

The Division of Marginalised Communities established six (6) Early Childhood Development Centres and employed eleven (11) staff members. Thirty four (34) students at different Institute of Higher learning such as ZVTC (15), IUM (7), UNAM (8), NUST (3) and Triumphant College (1) were supported with tuition fees, accommodation and monthly allowances. 10 out of 34 have completed their studies; I therefore call on O/M/As, RCs and Private entities to absorb them into job market in order to fulfil government objectives to improve their living conditions.

There are conservancies in the region that benefit a number of rural communities through employment, social projects, cash income and in-kind benefits. There has been an increase on income generated by conservancies compared to 2019/21. An amount of N\$32 million was

generated in 2021/22 compared to N\$ 14 million of the previous year. This is symbolic that even amid the diverse impact of COVID-19 there is still room for development.

On Human Wildlife Conflicts, a total number of 112 incidents were reported in the region, compared to 101 of the previous year. 96 incidents were investigated while 16 cases were not investigated.

Security

The crime in the region is controllable; this is as a result of intensified crime prevention, operations, community awareness and investigations. However, crimes such as house breaking and theft, murder, rape, illegal poaching, possession of cannabis, stock theft, reckless and negligent driving, and domestic violence, theft of all types and smuggling of goods through ungazetted entry points are among the top 10 prevalent crimes. Statistics shows that crime during the period under review was low in 2019/20, whereas it sharply increased in 2020/21, and in 2021/22 crime rate was slightly low as cases recorded decreased from 5424 in 2020/2021 to 3843 in 2021/2022. The region aims to reduce crime drastically during 2022/23 financial year.

The overall situation in the region is relatively calm but remains tense. There is a group of young people, some of them teachers, who call themselves Caprivi Concerned Group, who are advocating, campaigning and mobilizing for the banned United Democratic Party (UDP) of Mishake Muyongo. Their actions are aimed to secede the Zambezi Region from the rest of Namibia, thus destabilizing peace, stability and security of the country. Some of the returnees from Dukwi-Botswana are also joining in

mobilizing some communities to support secessionism activities in the Region. On 14 December 2021, some of them held a demonstration against the Government. In their petition to the Government, they demanded for secessionist political prisoners to be released, Namibia to withdraw from what they term “Caprivi” which they claim that the Namibian Government is occupying illegally and by force, the Government to have a dialogue with Mishake Muyongo and the Government to allow for a Referendum to be held to determine if Namibians will vote for Caprivi to be an independent entity.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Town Council have serviced 69 erven at Katima Mulilo Extension 31, of which 50 erven are under the Build Together Programme.

The planning for the current Central Business District is ongoing, and aimed to make provision for the construction of malls and parking areas to address traffic congestion. The existing design comprises of small erven which requires investors to purchase a minimum of 5 erven adjacent to each other when constructing bigger facilities. In order to diversify investment options in the hospitality sector, Council has opted to subdivide erf 20 into various erven which will be sold to various beneficiaries for hospitality purposes.

Town Council embarked on the re-routing of the sewer rising mains in Katima Mulilo to solve the sewer problem faced in town. A consultant was tasked to come up with remedial solutions to the persisting sewer problems/spillages experienced particularly within the Central Business

District area. Designs were done and submitted and a Contractor was appointed as per the Procurement Act. The re-routing project scope was focused on ten (10) pump stations, eight (8) pump stations had new pump installations and the other two pumps were serviced.

The renovation of the Old Legislative Hall by ZRC is ongoing and expected to finish within this financial year. The construction of Ngoma Community Development Centre is underway and due to be completed.

The Zambezi Vocational Training Centre (ZVTC) is running a two year project funded by the African Development Bank through the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture. The ongoing project at the value of N\$60,351,187.43 is to upgrade and renovate: Culinary Arts Workshop, Air Conditioner & Refrigeration Workshop, Bulk store and Maintenance Workshop, Auto Electric & Mechanical Workshop, Bricklaying and Plastering Workshop, Multi-purpose Hall, Security Gate House and Trainee Hostel Accommodation. The project stands at 76% and scheduled for completion by October 2022.

Road Infrastructure

The completion of the remaining 16km of DR3508 from Namalubi-Isizi-Luhonono was completed. The challenges which delayed the early completion of this road were the floods and the culverts which were short and narrow, so much water passed over the road and culverts. This challenge was rectified on time and proper bridges and culverts were constructed.

The first road of its kind to the flood prone areas was inaugurated in November 2021 and was officially named after the late icon of the Liberation Struggle Cde Brendan Kangongolo Simbwaye (**Brendan Simbwaye Road**) on 20 December 2021. The upgrading to bitumen standard of Katima Mulilo-Mafuta road was completed while the construction of interconnecting roads in Impalila Island is ongoing,

Rural Electrification

There is a Government directive on electricity that we should energize first Government institutions like schools, clinics, agriculture extension centres in the rural areas and many of them are still yet to be connected to electricity. There are settlements and villages which have to be electrified such as, Chetto and Ngoro in Western Zambezi to mention but a few.

Electricity is much needed at Schools so that learners could conduct evening studies, get educational facilities such as computers and improve on their passing rate. Usage of candles is common in villages; candles are a danger to eyes and also cause fire to many homes where lives and property are lost.

Nevertheless, different places within the region were electrified through the Rural Electrification Programmes funded by Ministry of Mines and Energy, European Investment Bank program (EIB), NAMPOWER and NORED where the following schools and locality were electrified:

- Ivilivinzi-Mbalasinte-Kasika- Impalila electrical grid
- Imukusi- Nfooma electrical Grid
- Singalamwe-Kamenga electrical line; Sachona- Lizauli line
- Connection of Maunga, Kakiramupepo, Kayuwo, Siseme, Mbambazi, Mukorufu, Malundu, Kikiya and Mpacha Schools was done.
- Ibbu Villages, Bukalo Villages and Sibbinda Villages
- Luhonono-Namiyundu-Nakuntwe; Ngoma-Liswani School; Kasibi School; Sauzuo-Lyashulu lines are ongoing.

NORED set up a Load Centre equipped with switchgear and protection, a facility to support reliable electrical distribution in Katima Mulilo, the project started 2020/2021 and is scheduled to be completed in 2022/2023 at the projected amount of N\$5 million. An amount of N\$1, 6 million was budgeted for network improvement projects such as:

Installed Ring feed MV Cable from Katima Intake-CBD cable	N\$ 198 800.00
Installed metering unit at Paul Shilongo Station	N\$ 117 000.00
De-bushing of MV lines	N\$ 365 000.00
Capacity Upgrade 200kv TFR to a 315kV Minisub 1 – Cowboy	N\$ 478 700.00
Capacity Upgrade 200kv TFR to a 315kV Minisub-Near NamWater	N\$ 468 000.00

Bukalo proper was electrified with the use of the accumulated surcharges of the village council due to them by NORED. With the assistance from NORED the overhead lines were replaced by underground electrical connectivity.

Sanitation

The Zambezi Region is always flooded every year in previous years whether we had enough or not enough rains, more flood water usually come from the upper Zambezi River in Angola and Zambia. It is imperative to embark upon plans to capture and preserve this water for human consumption and agricultural purposes.

The drilling and installation of boreholes in schools as well as community boreholes were achieved through the funding appropriated by the State. The construction of Ngoma effluent treatment plant and the construction of ablution facilities were attained.

Three (3) water borehole funded by Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) were drilled at Sikanjabuka community forest and one borehole funded by NILALEG project was drilled at Zilitene community forest to supply water to local community and nursery.

The dormant Phase 3 Kongola–Sangwali-Maunga has not yet started so that our people are provided with portable water. Katima - Ngoma pipeline is very slow and so far has covered almost half of the area and stopped at Bukalo. Most of our communities are provided with water from boreholes, some are still drinking water directly from the rivers, thus exposed to hazards and unhygienic water.

It is imperative that water pipes either from rivers or boreholes are extended to villages in order for communities to draw water nearby to avoid Human Wildlife Conflicts (HWC).

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

At the directive of H.E. Dr. Hage G. Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia and H.E. Dr. Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, Hon Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, MP, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of Namibia, and Hon Dr. Lemogang Kwape, MP, Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Botswana, jointly visited the Chobe District in the Republic of Botswana and the Zambezi Region of the Republic of Namibia in September 2021, bilateral talks were held with the Chobe District and Zambezi Region leadership in Kasane and Katima Mulilo respectively, to familiarize themselves with the situation on the

ground, including engaging communities, traditional leaders and stakeholders on the importance of peaceful co-existence and good neighbourliness along the common riverine border.

One of the resolutions of the communique, the Ministers acknowledged the importance to strengthen relations between the two local authorities, chiefs and people to people. The Ministers urged the Chobe District Council and Zambezi Regional Council to enter into twinning agreement which will, amongst others, enhance cooperation between the two local authorities, as well as facilitate engagements by the traditional authorities. We have already written a letter to the Chobe District Commissioner in September 2021 for us to start with our meetings.

On economic relations, the region has started the process of entering into regional partnership with Mbeya Region of the United Republic of Tanzania, Western and Southern Provinces of the Republic of Zambia. The process of identifying areas of cooperation have begun and working towards the signing of Memorandum of Understanding.

CHALLENGES

- Katima Mulilo Border Post has continued to experience increased volumes of trade and travel, which have marked it against the limited infrastructural and personnel resources.
- Slow progress in the establishment of the One Stop Border Post as a trade facilitation measure causing bottlenecks at Katima Mulilo Border Post.
- Lack of Truck Port in the Region to reduce congestion and mitigate security threats experienced by drivers in the buffer zone.
- Porous border line used for illegal cross-border activities versus limited resources.
- The COVID-19 pandemic that has had an impact on revenue collection through reduced informal cross-border trade.
- Impact of salty water at Ngoma Border Post which has negatively affected the livelihoods and performance of the various border agencies.
- Some government Ministries in the region are without Office but rather renting places/houses.
- The other challenge is the late registration of birth, this is a challenge because the Citizen Registration Office is faced with a high volume of late birth registration where the authenticity of some of these cases require investigations/verifications of place of birth which causes delays in the issuance of such documents.
- We are still facing the challenge of providing water to the communities through pipelines and boreholes.
- Limited budgetary allocation hampered staff members to attend to some Human Wildlife Conflicts incidents in the region. There are delays on payments of Human Wildlife Conflicts claims which results in affected farmers to complain about the system.

WAY FOWARD

- The region is working towards the realisation of the One Stop Border Post to mitigate the current load and increase trade.
- The Ministries of Defence and Veterans Affairs and Safety and Security have been engaged to demine the border line between Namibia and Zambia so that it can be debushed and cleared to mitigate security interferences faced by communities living along borders.
- The region plans to improve academic performance by 5% across all grades, improve parental involvement in educational programmes, ensure timely recruitment of teachers and improve sanitation in schools. The Directorate urges all parents to offer the necessary support to educational matters through attendance of parents meetings and provision of other consumables.
- A modern school that accommodates learners from Pre- primary to Senior Secondary is expected to be built in the region and introduce schools of production aimed at teaching basic pre-vocational subjects and be available to provide basic technical services.
- We have more than 25 000 hectares of land availed by the Traditional Authorities for the Region to embark on GREEN SCHEMES so that we create more job opportunities, employment of the Youth and create food security for the country.
- Roads Authority will continue working on our roads, blading and grading the gravel roads.

CONCLUSION

Honourable Chairperson, as I conclude this preview let us be reminded of the commitment we took upon ourselves to service the nation. The region's economy is predominantly agriculture, fishing and tourism based and most of its residents derive their livelihood from those sectors. Therefore, developmental projects attained as reported do not mark the end of development, as much still have to be done. Let every Office, Ministry and Agency take it upon themselves as mandatory to push for development. I would like to thank the Leadership of Zambezi and all office bearers without excluding the community of Zambezi for working together as a team towards the development of this region.

The year 2022/2023 has been declared by the Head of State, as a year of Reimaging, we are encouraged to think anew as we execute our functions, guided by NDPs, the pillars of the Harambee Prosperity Plan II and all other government tools availed, to achieve the economic goals aimed at developing our country.

Let us advance where we did not execute exclusively, we are, because of the community that we serve, let us desist from the languages of tribalism, nepotism, corruption and discriminatory conducts as these will obstruct the course development.

Lastly, COVID-19 is real and still with us, let's wear our masks, sanitise, maintain social distancing, wash our hands regularly and get vaccinated.

I thank you