



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS
HARDAP REGION
27 June 2022, Mariental**

**The Governor
HONOURABLE REVEREND SALOMON MENTHOS APRIL**

Honorable Gershon Daniel Francoir Dausab, Chairperson of Hardap Regional Council

Honorable Regional Councilors present

Your Worship Cherien Kock, the Mayor of Mariental Municipality and All Local Authority Councilors present

The Acting Chief Regional Officer

All management cadres and representatives from all Line Ministries

The Regional Commander of the Namibian Police

Officer in Charge of Hardap Correctional facilities

Chief Executive Officers of All Local Authorities

Distinguished Traditional Leaders

Inhabitants of the Great Hardap Region

Members of the Media

Viewers and listeners on different media platforms

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor and privilege for me to have the opportunity to deliver the State of the Region Address (SoRA), as mandated by Article 110A subsections (5) and (6) of the Namibian Constitution.

I deem it important at this juncture to thank His Excellency the President of the Republic of Namibia, Dr. HG Geingob for his visionary leadership throughout a very turbulent period.

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Regional Council,

Fellow Namibians and Inhabitants of the Hardap Region

Regional Councils and Local Authorities play an integral role in development planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of development programmes and projects. The decentralization policy requires the Regional

Council to implement specific programmes, projects and activities that include planning, surveying, land servicing of settlement areas and rural infrastructural development which are aimed at improving service delivery in the rural areas. In addition, Line Ministries manage and implement development funds allocated to the region.

Honorable Chairperson, Honorable Regional Councilors, Honorable Local Authority Councilors, Heads of Line Ministries in the region.

I shall now report on the Regional and Local Authorities activities.

The Hardap Regional Council approved a budget of Seventy-Five Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Three Thousand and Eight Hundred and Seventy-Three (N\$75,463,873.00) whereby Fifty Five Million Three Hundred and Twenty Five Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty Namibian Dollars (N\$55,325,530.00) was received from the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development as a subsidy and Twenty million, One Hundred and Thirty Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty Three Namibian Dollars (N\$20,138,243.00) were generated through services. Whereby, 91% was for operational and 9% for development budget.

Allow me to share with you some achievements of the Regional Council for the past financial year. The Local Economic Strategy was completed at a cost of N\$80,000.00. A water purification plant was completed in Hoachanas Settlement, with a total budget of N\$ 1,5million, while 47 erven were connected to the water and sewer systems in Klein Aub settlement.

An amount of N\$150,000.00 was utilized under the Cash for Work Programme to complete the following projects;

- Construction of a Poultry house at Neu-Haribes at a total cost of N\$30,000.00
- Upgrading of water pipeline in Schlip at a cost of N\$50,000;
- Fencing off of vegetable gardens at a total cost of N\$70,000 (N\$30 000 for Vaalpomp in Daweb constituency) and (N\$ 40 000 at Vrystaat in the Gibeon Constituency) respectively.

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Regional Council

The ongoing project on the rehabilitation and widening of the, Gibeon-Tses B1 road created the much needed job opportunities. The total number of 141 inhabitants in the region where employed under phase one of whom 127 unskilled, 1 semiskilled, 8 skilled, 2 skilled supervisory, 2 supervisory, 1 senior management. 38 are female and 103 male.

While we are cognizant of the economic recession, the Regional Council and Local Authorities still managed to make strides in some areas.

Gochas Village Council maintains a clean payment record with the utility payments, whilst the remaining local authorities are continuously striving to clear their backlog with the bulk suppliers.

Mariental Municipality

I am happy to report that in Mariental, 78 houses were constructed in the year under review (34 under the Build Together Program, 41 by the Private Developers, 3 were constructed by residents), while 28 are in progress as I speak.

Furthermore, Mariental Municipality serviced 173 erven in 2021/2022. Additionally 1,511 un-serviced residential erven were allocated (118 to Build Together Beneficiaries, 105 to Shack Dwellers Federation and 1,288 to Informal Settlement Upgrading program)

The informal settlement upgrading program allocations are as follows:

- Aimablaagte Extension 2: 212 residential erven, 8 business erven, 2 institutional erven and 2 light industrial erven, 8 **POS** and 4 **UA**
- Aimablaagte Extension 3: 303 residential erven, 2 business erven, 2 institutional erven, 10 **POS**, 2 **L/A**
- Aimablaagte Extension 5: 715 residential erven, 4 Institutional erven, 4 business erven and 4 **POS**

Rehoboth Town Council

In Rehoboth, 95 houses were constructed by Private Property Developers. Whilst, 348 erven were serviced (147 in Block H, Extension 1 and 201 in Block H, Extension 2), and 11 premises rezoned to maximize land use.

Aranos Town Council

56 houses were constructed under the Shack Dwellers Federation.

Gochas Village Council

11 houses were constructed under the Shack Dwellers Federation. Furthermore, the council extended the electricity network at a cost of N\$50,035.43 for more households to have access to electricity. The Council installed 30 pre-paid water meters to the value of N\$82,875.33 in order to improve accessibility, affordability of water and to increase on revenue collection. A 100 meter gravel road was improved with interlocks in the Auob Plaat residential area at a value of N\$600,405.58.

Kalkrand Village Council

Kalkrand Village Council recorded the construction of 7 houses during the 2021/2022 financial year.

Maltahohe Village Council

24 out of the targeted 26 houses (92,3%) were constructed under the Shack Dwellers program.

Stampriet Village Council

A water tower was constructed at the tune of N\$3,9million, to increase water pressure. Under the Shack Dwellers Federation, 13 houses were constructed. The sewer line construction is underway at a cost of N\$9,095,812.32 mill.

I am now moving to issues of Safety and Security in the Region

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Namibian Police in Hardap region consists of thirteen (13) police stations.

These police stations are in the following categories: 2x A-Class Police Stations, 2x B-Class Police and 9x C-Class Police Stations.

A total of 4,079 cases were reported, with the highest (1,886) being reported in Rehoboth and lowest number of cases reported in Sesriem (8 cases). Generally, crime in the region has increased by 0.5% if compared to the 2020/2021 financial year.

The most common crimes committed in the region are: rape (318 cases), murder (13 cases), stock theft (247 cases), possession or dealing in prohibited drugs or substances (95 cases) and culpable homicide (23 cases). May I pause for a moment to reflect on the rape cases, out of 318 rape cases that have been reported, 298 were female adults, 11 females were juveniles and 20 were male victims. 163 male suspects were arrested in respect of these cases.

On that note, the would-be perpetrators are herewith warned that the full wrath of the law will be applied, if such barbaric behaviors of rape and gender based violence do not stop.

The total value of drugs confiscated amounted to N\$402,740.00.

- 3,667kg of cannabis with the value of N\$36,670.00,
- 5,997kg skunk valued at N\$299,850.00,
- 526 full mandrax tablets with the value N\$63,120.00 and
- 31 units of crack cocaine to the value of N\$3,100.00.

Disappointingly, we are reporting an increase in the number (247) of stock theft cases, compared to 229 cases in the previous year 2020/2021.

A total number of 1,581 livestock to the value of N\$4,832,820.00mill were stolen, of which only 340 livestock to the value of N\$1,381,050.00mill were recovered. 207 adult males were arrested in respect of these cases.

The contributing factors to crime are alcohol and drug abuse, poverty caused by unemployment.

Crime prevention operations are conducted in the region to minimize criminal activities and citizens are encouraged to co-operate with the police.

Honorable Chairperson, Members of the Regional Council and inhabitants of the Hardap Region

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture remains the key economic driver in Hardap region and is the first link in the value chain for the 'Growth at Home' strategy which is one of the critical segments to advance Namibia's economic growth.

Farmers are however faced with the realities of high production input costs (seeds, fertilizers, machinery, etc), high livestock production costs, threats of diseases and pests outbreaks which hampers increased production and directly affects employment and wealth creation.

In order to ensure increased production, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform has developed the Harambee Comprehensively Coordinated and Integrated Agriculture Development Programme (HACCIADep). This programme aims to provide farmers with subsidized farming inputs and linkages to the market. These programs include:

1. The Namibia Agricultural Mechanization and Seed System Improvement Project (NAMSIP) which focus on agricultural mechanization aimed at structural transformation through increased agricultural production and value addition as game changers.
2. National Horticulture Value Chain started during the 2019/20 financial year and to date is valued at N\$2,1million, benefitting over 130 farmers with subsidized inputs (seeds (including lucerne & pasture seeds), fertilizer, pesticides and machinery and equipment).
3. Poultry Value Chain Development Scheme, commenced in 2020/21 financial year to date valued at N\$657,000.00 benefitting 63 farmers with subsidized inputs (production stock, materials and equipment, veterinary medicines and feed).
4. Small Stock Distribution & Development in Communal Areas benefited 20 farmers with 20 ewes and 1 ram totaling to 420 goats to the tune of N\$1 million.

The Directorate of Agriculture Production, Extension and Engineering Services as per its mandate, continues to provide extension services to the farming communities in the form of advice on projects, practices, skills and technologies, information dissemination, farm visits, exposure visits and training. Over 4000 farmers including schools, hostels, hospices, backyard/community/individual gardens received advisory and training services during the period under review.

Cooperative registration as of January 2022 to date recorded the submission for provisional registration of 6 cooperatives, of which 3 have been registered thus far. The graduation from subsistence farming to Agribusiness is an important component of the economy.

The average age of farmers is 67, and this is a concern. The region has identified youth as dynamic forces that are not tapped into. It becomes very critical that we need to address difficulties in accessing land for farming and finances by the youth.

Developmental partners such as the World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNDP-BBB, RISE, AgriBank, RISE-Namibia and GIZ have also contributed to the food security in the region.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) with the Ministry is promoting Conservation Agriculture in the region and has funded the training of 77 farmers and an exposure visit of 5 youthful farmers to Omusati region. A total of 41 women from The Women in Agriculture Association were also trained.

GIZ: Established 3 community gardens and capacitated 83 farmers in horticulture, orchard production (tree planting) and sponsored farming tools and training. In addition, trained 91 mothers having babies aged, 6 months – 23 months in producing baby food (puree) using home grown vegetables. The mothers were trained by the Ministry to establish backyard gardens, thus directly reducing the cases of malnutrition among toddlers.

UNDP-BBB (Build Back Better) Daweb Desert Fresh project received technical support, advice and training in the horticulture value chains. RISE Namibia funded the training of 30 women in Maltahohe on backyard green houses and provided with seeds and polybags.

The region combated the outbreak of the Brown locust from March - May 2022. A total 258,520 hectares were surveyed and 99,600 hectares treated. The coordinated efforts of all role players within the agricultural sector should be applauded for their pro-activeness in combating the locust outbreak, starting from the office of the Governor, Chairperson of the Regional Council, Ministerial staff members, farmers from Gibeon and Maltahohe, farmer associations and the Mariental Fire Brigade just to mention a few.

Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination

Currently, DWSSC Hardap maintains a total of 468 water points in the region of which 39 water points are having bad quality water and therefore supplied by water tankers until such time that alternative boreholes are drilled.

During the year under review two boreholes were drilled successfully at Panama and Kleinfontein while two others at Uitsig Home and Karunab were unsuccessful because water was not found. In total an amount N\$426,997.88 was spent. As a result, one water point was installed at Farm Panama while two water points were rehabilitated at Amperbo and Farm Uitsig Unit A to the tune of N\$402,122.00. Along with the above, four boreholes were successfully cleaned by our in-house team (Vlakplaas, Rooikranz 1, Rooikranz 2, and Verloorveld).

Furthermore, 3 diesel engines and 4 windmills were replaced with 18 solar pumps both in communal and resettlement farms at Ventershoop post, Gemsboksvlei post, Hoachanas post, Hanaus Home, Toacheb North, Nico Post and Uibes Home.

The Directorate successfully extended the water pipeline at Swartdam (5km) and Blankenese Post (2km) with small pipelines. Additionally, a total of 178 water deliveries were made in the "Salt Block" area and additional 41 water deliveries were made under emergency water supply.

I am poised to report that regarding Community Led Total Sanitation 5 villages were triggered to date and a total of 43 CLTS toilets were constructed in two constituencies namely: Gibeon constituency (Swartdam, Verag, Falkenhorst and Aneis Post) and Daweb Constituency (Farm Narobmund). MAWLR has spent N\$100,000.00 on materials to support targeted households in order to upgrade/improve their ablution facilities.

LAND REFORM

There are 93 resettlement farms in the region and 227 farming units. Two farms were purchased for resettlement purposes in Aranos and Rehoboth Rural Constituencies respectively. 28 resettled beneficiaries were assisted with PVC water tanks whilst solar pumping systems were installed at 23 farming units. In respect of the resettlement lease agreements, an amount of N\$100,115.07 was collected and 68 customary land rights were registered.

Directorate of Forestry

An amount of N\$222,720.00 was collected in revenue through forestry permits issued and seedling sales. A total of 1,427 forestry permits were issued to business entities in the region to harvest firewood for both domestic use and charcoal production.

Altogether the business entities harvested 10,716 tons of firewood and produced 3,654 tons of charcoal for commercial and domestic use. A large part of the charcoal is exported to the Republic of South Africa which remains our main market for export.

The Directorate also produced 6,947 seedlings and sold 5,933 seedlings to the public to promote tree planting. 230 seedlings were donated to government institutions and church organizations to encourage tree planting.

Forestry in collaboration with HRC trained 120 firefighters in all 8 constituencies in the region. Altogether 14 incidences of fire outbreaks were reported in Aranos, Mariental and Rehoboth areas and were controlled through stakeholder collaboration. 9 fire protection sensitization sessions were conducted during the period under review as part of the forestry resources inspection exercise.

Therefore, I am calling on all the inhabitants of the region to guard against engaging in activities that can cause fire outbreaks.

Environment and Tourism

Tourism remains one of the economic drivers in the region. Total revenue of N\$990,686.00 was collected during the year under review (N\$931,870.00 for park entry permits, N\$42,016.00 hunting and harvesting permits and N\$16,800.00 from fines for hunting without a permit).

Hardap Game Park remains a vital tool for conserving Namibia's essential biodiversity and it attracted hundreds of tourists. I am happy to report that 14,717 visitors visited the game park, of this number 11,421 were Namibians, 1,121 from SADC countries and 2,175 visitors were from overseas. The local fascination with Hardap Game Park is growing annually as more local people visited the park

Thus, I want to invite Namibians and international visitors to take time out and visit our parks. A break away to these parks will allow you to get rejuvenated and inspired, which in turn will raise your energy levels and productivity ultimately. "***We all need to sharpen our Saw from time to time***"

A total of 380 permits were issued, out of which 352 were for commercial farmers while 2 were issued to the conservancies and 26 to resettlement farmers.

However, 5 cases of hunting without a permit were recorded and culprits were fined.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Regional Council,

Moving to Health matters, I would like to present the following:

As we are still battling with the Covid-19 pandemic it is befitting that I provide a brief update on the regional situation as at 26 June 2022. The total numbers of people tested to date are **43,020** and **9,483** were confirmed positive whilst **9,125** have recovered and currently only **1** cases are active. Unfortunately, **357** people have succumbed due to COVID 19.

May their souls rest in peace

The current focus of the COVID 19 pandemic response is to get as many people as possible vaccinated. The Ministry has therefore mobilized support from development partners and other stakeholders to undertake the task of vaccinating our inhabitants. Till date we have:

- **38% (26,031)** of our inhabitants fully vaccinated
- **43% (29,975)** of people have received their first doses, whilst

- **25 % (16,958)** have received their second doses.

For children between the ages **12-17 years** we have recorded:

- **11% (12-13yrs =401) and**
- **16 % for (14-17= 1081)** respectively.

Our Health Care providers have recorded the highest vaccination rate of **77% (496)** in the region so let us follow their example and get vaccinated.

We have been very fortunate during the year under review to have received an oxygen generating plant with the capacity to produce oxygen at a rate of (500L/min) the biggest in Africa for Mariental Hospital through the generous donation of Namdia.

In addition, we received a 4-ton Oxygen tank at St. Mary's hospital in Rehoboth donated by the Rehoboth Community Trust and its co-funders'.

I am confident that these donations have put us in the best position to provide much needed critical care and indeed in line with Vision 2030 as we are moving towards sustainability.

Construction of Mariental clinic has been completed at a cost of N\$ 20, 454, 752.05 (mill) and operations have resumed.

I would therefore use this opportunity to commend the Health Minister and his team for all the efforts made thus far to enable us to respond efficiently and effectively to the pandemic.

I wish to report on the state of Education in the Hardap Region

EDUCATION

A total number of 28,009 are currently enrolled in schools in Hardap Region, which reflects an increase of 412 learners from last year's enrolment which was 27,597. The number of learners that wrote the end of year examination in 2021 is 25,571, which are **2,438** less compared to enrolment on the fifteen day school statistics. **Drop out statistics remain worrisome in the region.** I therefore would like to call on all parents, guardians, caretakers and community leaders to

ensure that all children of school going age are enrolled and remain in school until they complete secondary education.

Let us take hands as stakeholders to keep our children in school as education remains the key to socio-economic upliftment in our society, hence I call on all employers particularly in the agricultural and domestic work industries who employ unskilled workers to assist them in sending their children to school and refrain from grooming the next labor force.

83% of the 7,998 learners in Junior Primary Phase were promoted to the next grades while 78.8% of the 9,252 learners in Senior Primary Phase, were promoted to the next grades.

Out of 4,086 in junior Secondary Phase, 2,409 were promoted to the next grades, representing 59%. For 2021, a total number of 1,349 learners were enrolled in Grade 11, whereby 186 learners qualified for AS level and 140 learners are currently enrolled for AS in six secondary schools. Whereas, in 2020 only 69 learners qualified for AS level and 54 learners were enrolled for AS in four secondary schools. As a region we are excited to have improved from 7.6% to 13.8% success rate in Grade 11, 117 more learners qualified for enrolment in AS in 2021 compared to 2020.

6 schools are offering Advanced Subsidiary namely: Dr Lemmer Secondary School, M&K Gertze Technical School, Mariental Secondary School, C //Oaseb Secondary School, Rooiduin Secondary School and Rehoboth Secondary School. The last two schools were added at the beginning of the current academic year.

Honorable Chairperson, ladies and Gentlemen

To address overcrowding in primary schools in the region, the directorate constructed a new school comprising of 24 classrooms in Aimablaagte location to the tune of N\$7,489,247.39 (mill).

Further to the above, the shortage of classroom space in the region did not go unnoticed. 12 Classrooms have been constructed at various schools across the Region to the tune of N\$3,882,120.56 (mill). The schools are: Stampriet CS (2 x

classrooms), Oanob PS (2 x classrooms), N. Mutschuana PS (2 x classrooms), PI Groenewaldt SS (3 x classrooms) and Rehoboth PS (3 x classrooms).

Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Regional Council

The Government allocated N\$29.5 million to the region to help the Education Sector to improve education facilities to prevent spread of the virus. The following activities were undertaken to address the latter.

- Renovation of the Boys and Girls Hostel Block at Rooiduin Secondary School at a total cost of N\$5,968,138.07mill.
- A block of classrooms destroyed by a fire outbreak at Rehoboth High School was renovated at a total cost of N\$5,051,773.44mill.
- Re-installation of electrical networks at Klein-Aub Hostel, C //Oaseb Senior Secondary School Blocks and Stampriet Boys Hostel at a total cost of N\$783,528.29.
- Renovation of ablution blocks were undertaken at Empelheim Junior Secondary School Hostel, Sonop Pre-Primary School, Rehoboth High School, Namalia Hostel and Mariental Secondary School Boys Hostel at a total cost of N\$4,286,825.05mill.
- There was also a need to reroute the underground water pipeline at JTL Beukes Primary School at a total cost of N\$353,188.29.

Implementation of the school feeding program to 10,403 learners at a tune of N\$1.4 million have been successful and contributed to school attendance in the Region. In addition, the World Food Programme (WFP) supported Stampriet PS to set up a phase-based integrated agricultural project consisting of a garden and poultry units. This initiative is currently being extended to Samuel Veldskoen Primary School in Kries. These efforts demonstrate Government's commitment in guaranteeing sustainability in food security.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Inhabitants of the Hardap Region

The promotion of government policies and programs has been achieved greatly through information sharing sessions. The MICT team ensured that accurate

information was shared with the Hardap community and beyond, by working together with decentralized functions and relevant institutions responsible for national development and social programmes.

The regional office publishes a quarterly online Newsletter, titled “Hardap MICT Update”. The publication is geared towards keeping the Hardap inhabitants informed on key developmental issues in the region as well as the activities the regional office undertakes quarterly.

The regional office forms part of the COVID-19 Risk Communication, Community Engagement and Social Mobilization committee. Several documentaries were produced by the office, with the aim to stop the further spread of COVID 19. Information was disseminated on social media to keep the public informed about the latest statistics on the covid-19 situation as well to encourage the use of COVID-19 precautionary measures.

Inhabitants of the Hardap Region

I will now move to Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare.

SOCIAL PROTECTION SERVICES

A total of 22,824 beneficiaries have been registered and are receiving social grants during the period under review.

- Maintenance grants 2,981,
- Foster Care Grant 629,
- Special Maintenance Grant 7,765,
- Old Age Grant 8,684 and
- Disability Grant 2,765.

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The following activities were undertaken during the period under review: Establishment of Local Gender Permanent Task Force Committees in Hardap. Stakeholder Training for Church Leaders in all Constituencies in Hardap region, Male Engagement Training and Boys sensitized on GBV

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION

In respect of its responsibility towards Early Childhood Development the Directorate established ECD centers. There are 68 ECD centers in the region, two centres in Mariental and Gibeon were upgraded to modern infrastructure to the tune of N\$3,9 million courtesy of Anglo American Foundation. A total of 1,724 children enrolled at early childhood development centers in the region.

The region can report the following achievement for Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare: Income Generating Activities (IGA) equipment and material were handed over to 6 beneficiaries in 4 constituencies (Daweb, Mariental Urban, Rehoboth East and West) for the amount of N\$77,000.

The House of Safety (Safe House) is now fully operational in Mariental and two caregivers were recruited. For all the children, men and women who are in danger of GBV, child neglect and abuse, please reach out to the social workers to benefit from this facility.

Honorable Chairperson

HARDAP CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

The facility during the year under review admitted 291 offenders and cumulatively released 398 offenders. Currently, there are 616 inmates (8 females and 608 males), without any trial awaiting or juvenile offenders. The facility offers training in different programs for reintegration in the society. These programs are: Thinking and Living Skills (31 offenders participated and successfully completed), Managing My Substance Use (7 offenders participated and completed), Motivating Offenders to Re-think everything (16 offenders Completed), and Gender Based Violence (59 offenders completed).

In addition, the facility offers practical skills trainings to the inmates such as: Vehicle and Implement Repairs (6 offenders are placed), Metal work and welding (4 offenders are placed), Building construction (19 offenders are currently placed) and Tailoring (6 offenders are placed there). Other educational programs offered are Adult Literacy (38 offenders), Adult Upper Primary Education (32 offenders), Secondary, NAMCOL – Grade 12 (6 offenders) and Tertiary Education (6 offenders are enrolled).

On food production, I am pleased to report that the Hardap Correctional Facility continues to produce food for its own consumption and supply to other Correctional Facilities.

In general, there was an increase in food production at the facility. In 2021/2022 4,656 tons of vegetables, 3,342 bales of Lucerne were produced with 1,390 piglets born.

Inhabitants of the Hardap Region

The Ministry of Sports, Youth and National Service is currently finalizing the construction of Vocational Training Centre at Kai //Ganaxab in collaboration with the Namibia Training Authority, who provided funding for Phase 2A worth N\$12million, while African Development bank, financed the Phase 2B at the tune of N\$71million.

As for sports we participated in the Regional and National Athletics championship where 37 athletes walked away with medals (14 gold, 12 silver & 11 bronze) at the National Athletics Championship in different athletics disciplines.

Initiatives from the office of the Regional Governor:

Before presenting some of the challenges experienced in the region, allow me to present to you some initiatives from the governor's office:

Under the social housing project initiative 2 houses were constructed for the centurions in Gibeon constituency.

The Office of the Governor mobilized funding towards supporting Advance Subsidiary Level grade 12 learners from C//Oaseb Senior Secondary School (Gibeon) and Mariental High School to attend the week long mid-term summer school. This contributed to Mariental High School recording a resounding success in terms of getting all Advanced Subsidiary Learners being graded.

In an effort to assist in unlocking the potential of the learners from rural schools in the region the Office of the Governor organized a four day educational excursion to Luderitz for the learners of Samuel Veldskoen and Mukorob

primary Schools from Kries and Amperbo settlements in the Gibeon Constituency respectively. The tour aimed at providing learners with an educationally rich experience that will not only enhance their studies but also provide them with an opportunity to visit historical sites.

Governor's kitchen is an initiative of bringing a meal a day to the constituencies in the region.

In addition 64 youth undertook an exchange visit to Oshana and Omusati regions to network, share best practices, lessons learned and mitigation strategies on challenges faced by the youth.

Equally the Office of the Governor provided financial support for students to undertake studies at various vocational institutions;

- 14 nursing students pursuing nursing studies at D' Expert College
- 4 students at Ongula VTC pursuing welding and tailoring courses
- 6 students at UNAM pursuing courses in the commercial fields and nursing.
- 4 students in the field of hospitality at Wolwedans
- Socio-economic support provided to 5 students at KAYEC in Ondangwa in auto motor mechanics, welding and metal fabrication.

Challenges

Across O/M/As, Hardap Region is not immune to challenges and therefore we are faced with inequitable budget allocation,

- Aging fleet,
- Insufficient physical and communication infrastructure,
- Unresponsive staffing structures just to mention but a few
- The challenges mentioned have an adverse effect on service delivery by O/M/As in the Region.

As for Safety and Security:

Withdrawal of GBV cases by complainants' compromise the administration of restorative justice.

Farmers don't count their livestock regularly and this complicates investigations.

DNA testing on animals is only done in South Africa, which is unaffordable for most of the famers in Namibia, therefore, it's time to get our own DNA testing laboratory in Namibia.

Furthermore, illegal hunting in private farms continues to undermine economic revival efforts in the region.

In the area of water and sanitation there are still a number of households in the region using the bucket system.

Therefore, I call on all the local authorities to fast track the upgrading of the sewer system.

The above stated is a road we do not want to walk as the inhabitants of the Region hence we commit to craft a different road to walk starting where we are and using what we have. Therefore let me inform the inhabitants on projects in the pipeline:

- The first intake of students at the fully-fledged VTC at Kai //Ganaxab will commence in February 2023. The center has the capacity to train 300 students per annum, with the capacity to accommodate of 160 students in the hostel. This facility will afford the region an opportunity to capacitate the youth with skills and knowledge for the job market
- A special school is planned for people living with disabilities in Mariental, to cater for the people in Hardap and //Kharas regions.
- In this financial year a number of youth capacity building initiatives are envisaged in various fields of interest ranging from hospitality & tourism, office administration, computer literacy as well as entrepreneurship with the aim to stimulate self-employment amongst the youth.
- In Hoachanas Settlement there are plans to conduct pegging and surveying of 300 plots in the current financial year.
- Electrification and connection of households to the electricity grid in settlements across the region.

- The council plans to construct a roof top solar plant of 40kWp system for the head office at a total cost of N\$600,000.00 to reduce the cost of electricity.
- Construction of 70 VIP toilets in Mariental Urban and Rehoboth Rural Constituencies at an estimated cost of N\$1,158,000.00mill has commenced and is ongoing.
- Expansion and rehabilitation of water and sewerage infrastructure in a number of settlements is ongoing
- In pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal 2, the Regional Council with its stakeholders strives to capacitate farmers to employ diversified agricultural approaches which include strengthening of food production, value addition and food delivery systems to end hunger.
- New inventions such as the green hydrogen and oil discovery in Lüderitz have a potential to create the much needed employment opportunities in the 2 regions of //Kharas and Hardap, therefore all is not loss.

Thank you for your kind attention