

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

## STATE OF THE REGION

### ADDRESS BY THE



## HARDAP REGION

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HONOURABLE

REVEREND

SALOMON MENTHOS APRIL,

GOVERNOR

OF THE

HARDAP REGION

MARIENTAL

**23 JULY 2020**

**@ 10:00**

It is for me a great honor and privilege to have the opportunity to deliver this State of the Region Address (SoRA).

Let me also take this opportunity to extend a word of gratitude to the former Governor Mrs. Esme Sophia Isaack, for the manner in which she provided leadership to this region, and for her unequivocal dedication, commitment and service to her people.

*Fellow Namibians and Inhabitants of the Hardap Region*

As the newly appointed Governor of the Region, I will present a report highlighting key accomplishments and challenges encountered over the previous financial year. I will also use this opportunity to outline my vision for the Hardap Region over the next five (5) years of my tenure.

Our President, His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob, upon his inauguration on March 21, 2015, declared war against poverty, income and wealth inequalities, and corruption, in the quest to achieve more inclusive growth and shared prosperity. As the Governor of the Hardap Region, it will be my noble goal to achieve these objectives through a number of strategic interventions which I will expand on later in this address.

It is our responsibility as Namibians to build a new nation in its true sense, to confront the injustices of the past and to rectify the inequalities of the present.

We are aware that public finances are constrained, and therefore limit the ability of government to fully expand its investment in economic and social development. But the advancement of human development should not solely be determined by financial factors. Through social entrepreneurship and transformational leadership, we can address the hopes and fears of our people.

*Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Regional Council,*

I will now report on strides that have been made in the education sector. Education is a fundamental right enshrined in Article 20 of the Namibian Constitution. Provision for the rights of those engaged in artistic and cultural pursuits are also provided for in Articles 19 and 21 of the Namibian Constitution (MoEAC, Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022).

The mandate of the Directorate of Education in the Hardap Region is to “**to educate and train for sustainable national development and promote arts and culture.**” Since 2017, the programs of the Directorate have been aligned to five (5) strategic objectives, namely:

- a) Improve core skills in numeracy and literacy in basic education;
- b) Promote arts and culture for sustainable development;
- c) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all;
- d) Enhance organizational performance; and
- e) Ensure effective regulatory framework and compliance.

I want to emphasize that we need to provide the necessary education to our children if we want to break the cycle of poverty. Lack of opportunities and poor quality interventions during early childhood can significantly disadvantage young children and reduce their potential for success.

Therefore, giving children a solid foundation in the early years of their education is the best investment we can make to ensure that they succeed in life.

I want to report that we enrolled 1,929 (One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty Nine) children as at March 2020 in the early childhood programme.

During the period 2015-2020 we allocated N\$2,700,000 (Two Million Seven Hundred Thousand Namibian Dollars) for the construction of three Early Childhood Development Centers in the Hardap Region.

The construction of the Early Childhood Development Centers will commence during this financial year. The centers will be constructed in Maltahohe (Daweb Constituency), Aranos (Aranos Constituency) and Rehoboth (Rehoboth Urban East Constituency).

There are 61 (Sixty One) schools in the region of which 55 (Fifty Five) are Government schools and 6 (Six) are privately subsidized. In addition, there are 38 hostels (19 Government and 19 private subsidized). The total enrolment of learners was 25 722, with 652 teachers. That would amount to a ratio of about 41 learners per teacher. There is indeed room for improvement to ensure learner centered education, so that there is better personal interaction between teacher and learner.

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

The majority of our learners come from homes with poor to average socio-economic circumstances, i.e. most parents are from low to average income groups or are unemployed. Equally, the number of orphans and vulnerable increased, hence a need for rigorous psychosocial support and support from stakeholders.

At the end of the academic year 2019, 24% of 389 candidates who wrote Grade 12 were admitted to tertiary institutions. This is a slight improvement from the 18% and 19% recorded in the 2017 and 2018 academic periods respectively.

To address the increasing number of learners, we have constructed an additional 35 (Thirty Five) classrooms at a cost of N\$11,227,000 (Eleven Million, Two Hundred and Twenty Seven Thousand Namibian Dollars). The classrooms were built in Maltahohe, Stampriet, !Goxas, Aranos, Gibeon, Mariental, !Hoaxa!nas, Rehoboth and Sclip. The latter however does not address the actual need for more classrooms.

The Region is also faced with many challenges which include;

- Over exposure and participation of learners to gender based violence and alcohol & drug abuse;
- Sexual exploitation and teenage pregnancy among learners;
- Indiscipline on the part of both teachers and learners;
- Theft, vandalism, suicide and violence in schools;
- Poor sanitation, with many schools' ablution facilities malfunctioning;
- High school drop-out rates and an increasing number of street kids;
- Limited opportunities for professional development;
- Poor academic progression;

- Tensions with some farm owners about land ownership,
- Shortage of classrooms and land to construct school. This is particularly the case in Mariental and Rehoboth;
- Rural to urban migration causing very low enrolment in rural schools and overcrowding in the urban centers;
- Lack of telecommunication in rural areas (*E. Fredricks PS and #Nabasib Primary School are not within signals coverage*);
- Shortage of teachers' accommodation in rural areas;
- Severe understaffing in the Directorate (57 out of 153 posts are vacant) and delays in the approval to fill vacancies; and
- Shortage of qualified teachers, especially for Afrikaans and Khoekhoegowab languages

***Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Regional Council***

I will now reflect on the health sector. Health Care in the region for the year under review has made significant progress to ensure citizens improved access to health.

Across Namibia, a total of 42 Health Care workers in various job categories were recruited over the last 12 months, of which 95% are Namibians. It should further be noted that a number of Namibian graduates have entered the job market in fields such as dentistry, pharmacy and radiography.

With the COVID-19 pandemic in our midst, I beseech on those responsible, to ensure that the clearance of critical positions be treated with the utmost urgency, for us to be sufficiently resourced to address this pandemic.

The region started with the Health Promotion School Initiative in 2019 where ten (10) schools were identified and life skills teachers were trained. I can also report that the teenage pregnancy rate has declined with 3 % between quarters one and four during the year under review. The teenage pregnancy figure is currently standing at 17% of the total number of enrolled learners.

Namibia is on the verge of achieving total HIV/AIDS epidemic control as indicated by His Excellency in his State of the Nation Address. Further to this, 100% of women attending antenatal care were tested for HIV/AIDS and know their status. In addition, more than 98% of babies born from HIV/AIDS positive mothers tested negative. Treatment coverage stands at 81%.

Deaths as a result of TB is at 9% and I ask that families living with members on treatment should encourage them to take their medication. The housing situation in the region does not make it easy to effectively curb the spread of tuberculosis. The local authorities therefore need to move faster on the delivery of houses, so that those members who are in a financial position to do so can acquire houses. By so doing we can decongest the current overcrowding in our houses and reduce TB infection.

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

The region has experienced two outbreaks during the year under review. Whilst the region was battling with the Hepatitis E outbreak, the COVID 19 outbreak also struck us. The Rehoboth Health district has been grappling with the Hepatitis E outbreak, while Mariental Health district was struck by the COVID 19 outbreak.

*The following efforts were made towards containing the Hepatitis E outbreak in Rehoboth;*

- The surveillance team in Rehoboth did active case search and contact tracing;
- Communities were trained to set up tippy taps;
- Street vendors were educated on proper hand hygiene; and
- The Rehoboth Town Council installed two tankers for the residents of Block E where the outbreak was experienced.

Most of the confirmed Hepatitis E cases came from areas with no running water and poor sanitation facilities. Community members also did not take ownership of the tippy taps and at times those set up by the Community Health Workers were vandalized.

I would therefore call on Local Authorities to prioritize the provision of water and sanitation in their respective areas. I would also ask that the inhabitants of the Hardap Region take responsibility for their own health and therefore ensure that they acquire items that would allow them to practice hand hygiene.

A total of 1,514 (One Thousand Five Hundred and Fourteen) men were circumcised. Health Care providers in both state and private facilities are providing this service in Gibeon, Maltahohe Health Centre, Aranos Health Centre, !Hoaxa!nas Clinic, Mariental hospital and Rehoboth hospital.

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

I will now proceed to the sector of Correctional Services. The rehabilitation efforts made at the Hardap Correctional Facility have yielded positive results. For the year under review no escapes were recorded. A Risk Management Correctional Strategy was implemented, to objectively and consistently determine offenders concerns and risks/needs, in order to administer the most appropriate programmes and services for effective reintegration.

The Hardap Correctional Facility offers Psychosocial Rehabilitation Programmes. A total of 28 (Twenty Eight) offenders underwent the Core Structured Programme and 522 (Five Hundred and Twenty Two) offenders underwent the Support Rehabilitative Programme.

Further to this the Hardap Correctional Facility assists offenders to reconcile with victims and enables effective re-integration into society, through a Restorative Justice Program for offenders. In this program individual Pastoral Counselling for Inner Healing and Spiritual Guidance is provided.

Educational programmes were offered to 188 offenders. These programmes are as follows:

- Functional Literacy (68),
- Adult Upper Primary Education (23),
- NAMCOL Grade 10 and Grade 12 Final examinations (36),
- Tertiary year end examinations (5),
- Basic Computer Literacy (56), and
- One PHD student

In the Workshop Division, 13 (Thirteen) offenders were enrolled in VET 2019/20 financial year. From the 13 offenders, 4 were admitted to NTA for assessment. 2 Obtained certificates from Namibia Training Authority (NTA).

The Number of offenders on the current caseload are 51. Of these 32 earned remission and 19 full parole. 65 Offenders successfully completed their conditional release during the period under review.

Healthcare Care services were provided to offenders, during which 102 offenders were circumcised, 601 were tested for Tuberculosis and 38 received first time HIV/AIDS counselling and testing.

With the limited resources at its disposal, the Centre strives to improve self-sustainability. The production of pork meat for the year under review, was 35,496kg (Thirty Five Thousand Four Hundred and Ninety Six kilograms) and vegetables was 338,290kg (Three Hundred and Thirty Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety kilograms).

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

Allow me to report on the telecommunication sector. The telecommunications network of MTC has been upgraded from 2G to 3G in Kriess in the Gibeon Constituency, as well as /Uibes in the Daweb Constituency allowing our population to have communication and have access to 3G broadband services. I must however hasten to mention that connectivity in /Huibes remains a concern because the signal has limited reach, and therefore requires urgent attention.

The consistency and quality of electricity supply in the Region also remains a concern as the frequency supply of disruption is relative high. However, I am happy to report that the establishment of the Southern Regional Electricity Distribution (SORED) Company is at an advanced stage. My office in consultation with Nampower, the Electricity Control Board and Local Authorities in the region, are working around the clock to ensure the establishment of SORED, and to find amicable solutions on the payment of the outstanding debts to Nampower.

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

The Hardap Region received for the year under review an allocation of N\$284,719,000 (Two Hundred and Eighty Four Million, Seven Hundred and Nineteen Thousand Namibian Dollar) for the construction and or rehabilitation of capital infrastructure in the region. The allocation for the current year is N\$198,841,000 (One Hundred and Ninety Eight Million, Eight Hundred and Forty One Thousand Namibian Dollars).

Some of the projects undertaken in the previous year are as follows;

- Construction of an electricity reticulation network at Schlip at a cost of N\$1,200,000 (One Million, Two Hundred Thousand Namibian Dollars). 49 (Forty Nine) houses were provided with electricity.
- Construction of a sewer reticulation network at !Hoaxa!nas at a cost of N\$4,000,000 (Four Million Namibian Dollars). 42 (Forty Two) Houses were provided with a sewer connection.

Progress is made with the upgrading of roads in the Hardap region. I would like to state that the upgrading of the road from Gobabis to Aranos is progressing well. Section A of the project which started from Gobabis to Aminius is completed. Section B starting from Aminius to Aranos has commenced and is due for completion in October 2021. The preparation of the road service from Onderombapa to Aminius stretching over a distance of 15km has commenced and 206 people are currently employed under the project. The Governors of Omaheke and Hardap Regions have agreed that the labor pool for the construction of the road will prioritize the inhabitants of both regions. The total cost of the project is N\$650,000,000 (Six Hundred and Fifty Million Namibian Dollar).

Sanitation is fundamental to human development. Many international organizations use sanitation facilities as a measure for progress in the fight against poverty, disease, and death. Access to proper sanitation is also considered a human right, not a privilege, for every man, woman, and child. Sanitation generally refers to the provision of facilities and services for the safe disposal of human waste.

The region received an allocation of N\$4,100,000 (Four Million One Hundred Thousand Namibian Dollars) under the Rural Sanitation programme, for the construction of toilets in the rural areas. 232 (Two Hundred and Thirty Two) households will benefit from this ongoing project as indicated below.

- 26 (Twenty Six) toilets Rehoboth Urban East Constituency
- 26 (Twenty Six) toilets Rehoboth Urban West Constituency
- 50 (Fifty) toilets Rehoboth Rural Constituency
- 40 (Forty) toilets Daweb Constituency
- 40 (Forty) toilets Gibeon Constituency
- 50 (Fifty) toilets Mariental Rural Constituency

With the introduction of the Food Bank, the Ministry of Poverty Eradication identified Mariental to pilot the programme.

A total of 369 (Three Hundred and Sixty Nine) households were identified to benefit under the program and 12 Street Committees were appointed. It is my humble plea to the Ministry responsible to ensure that the programme be rolled out in the region to address poverty.

Several programmes have been initiated that will stimulate economic empowerment and employment creation. I will mention some such as the Cash for Work Programme where the following projects were undertaken.

- Fencing of the electrical site in Schlip (Rehoboth Rural Constituency) at a cost of N\$40,000 (Forty Thousand Namibian Dollars)
- Construction of a Manga in !Khoros (Daweb Constituency) at a cost of N\$25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Namibia Dollars)
- Upgrading of the graveyard in /Uibes (Daweb Constituency) at a cost of N\$50,000 (Fifty Thousand Namibian Dollars)
- Rehabilitation of a road at Farm //Haribes (Mariental Urban Constituency) at a cost of N\$30,000 (Thirty Thousand Namibian Dollars)
- Construction of a dumping site at Voigtsgrund (Mariental Urban Constituency) at a cost of N\$25,000 (Twenty Five Thousand Namibian Dollars)

- Rehabilitation of the water canal at Voigtsgrund (Mariental Urban Constituency) at a cost of N\$29,000 (Twenty Nine Thousand Namibian Dollars)

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

Rural areas are known for their lack of basic essential infrastructure and services. However, they also hold enormous potential which if harnessed, can greatly contribute to the realization of national economic development and poverty eradication in our country.

To this end, Government adopted the National Rural Development Policy and Strategy, which includes the designation of rural development as a key development focus area.

One component of the National Rural Development Policy is rural infrastructure and services development. One of its sub-components is the establishment of rural development centers (RDCs). For the Hardap Region, the center is currently under construction at Farm Hobby Garden (Gibeon Constituency). The center will be involved in designing and developing appropriate technologies and equipment, aimed at enhancing the productive capacity of rural-based self-help entrepreneurial projects. The center will also be used for information dissemination and community outreach programmes.

The following construction activities at the Rural Development Centre were undertaken during the year under review;

- The construction of the water tower at a cost of N\$1,330,523 (One Million, Three Hundred and Thirty Thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty Three Namibian Dollars)
- The construction of the internal sewerage reticulation system at a cost of N\$1,979,696 (One Million, Nine Hundred and Seventy Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety Six Namibian Dollars)

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

Rural electrification is part of the Government's policy to expand the electricity supply infrastructure to rural areas, in order to improve the socio-economic conditions of Namibia citizens, and to create the necessary incentives for economic development in the targeted areas. The following areas in the region were provided with electricity as part of the programme;

- Vleiveld
- Lambert Pos

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

I will proceed to report on government's response to the drought that has hit region over the last year. It has indeed affected many households. Grazing was destroyed resulting in the loss of animals and therefore increased food insecurity. The Office of the Prime Minister through the Drought Relief programme provided food in the form of fish, Maize Meal and cooking oil to a total of 8,672 households. The programme also supported a total of 250 farmers with fodder.



An amount of N\$2, 5 million was allocated for the rehabilitation of 11 water points under the Drought Relief Programme. It yielded positive results, except one site (Mispa) where the drill rods were successfully removed but the borehole collapsed. However it was successfully replaced with another borehole.

An additional amount of N\$11,800 million was allocated for the drilling and installation of 19 boreholes. The sites identified weres Anis Khobeb, Gemsbokvlei, Verag, Diamantskop, Tussenburge, Tempelhoff, Altemit, Langboom, Fleyveld, Tafelkop Home, Sukses Home, Grundorn Flachte, Grundorn Pompies, Grundorn Vlakplaas, Mynputs, Vaalpomp, Vaaldam, August Dam and Zoekmekaar.

10 boreholes yielded positive results with good quality water. The Regional Council is finalizing the procurement of contractors to do installations on the boreholes. I wish to report that six boreholes yielded negative results, but we are in the process of exploring more sites as we are convinced that there must be water. The contractors are currently on site to drill the remainder of four boreholes.

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

Biodiversity Conservation is a cornerstone of the Namibian experience. Namibia is one of the first African countries to incorporate protection of the environment into the constitution, and the government has not been the only institution that implements biodiversity conservation. Rights and opportunities are also given to communities to manage their wildlife through communal conservancies.

In the year under review, Hardap Game Park (HGP) remained a vital tool for conserving Namibia's essential biodiversity and it attracted hundreds of tourists. The international and local fascination with Hardap Game Park is growing annually.

The park continues to be a home of Kudu, Gemsbok, Hartmann's mountain Zebra and Springbok. The 284 (Two Hundred and Eighty Four) bird species recorded in the park includes the Great White Pelican, Yellow Billed Stork, Osprey, Bradfield's Swift and Stark's Lark.

In the period under review, the Ministry conducted an annual game count. The results revealed that Hardap Game Park counted a total of **44** (Forty Four) Kudus, **380** (Three Hundred and Eighty) Gemsbok, **80** (Eighty) Ostrich, **12** (Twelve) Black-backed Jackals, **187** (One Hundred and Eighty Seven) Hartmann Zebra, **6** (Six) Steenbok, **16** (Sixteen) Giraffe, **8** (Eight) Warthogs and **897** (Eight Hundred and Ninety Seven) Springboks.

In the last financial year, a total of **22,298** (Twenty Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety Eight) guests visited Hardap Park. Of these visitors, **11,918** (Eleven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighteen) were Namibians, **2,048** (Two Thousand and Forty Eight) were from SADC countries while **8,359** (Eight Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty Nine) visitors were from overseas countries. An amount of **N\$637,530.00** (Six Hundred and Thirty Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty Namibian Dollars) was generated through park entry permits.

The Ministry recorded a total of Eight (**8**) illegal wildlife related activities in Hardap region. Out of **8** cases, **7** were related to hunting without a permit, while 1 case was for the transporting of game without a permit. Both offenses were committed by Namibians.

The region issued a total of Four (4) fines to different offenders who contravened several Sections of Ordinance 4 of 1975. The fines issued amounted to **N\$ 10,320.00** (Ten Thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty Namibian Dollars).

In the year under review, a total of **193** (One Hundred and Ninety Three) permits were issued to applicants for shoot and sell, game proof fencing, hoodia harvesting, night culling, biltong hunting, import & export permits, as well as own use permits.

Out of **193** (One Hundred and Ninety Three) permits issued, **179** (One Hundred and Seventy Nine) were for commercial farmers, while **14** (Fourteen) permits were issued to resettlement farmers and Conservancies.

An amount of **N\$ 35,110.00** (Thirty Five Thousand, One Hundred and Ten Namibian Dollars) was generated through the issuing of such permits issuing at the regional office.

A total of Seven (7) reports related to human wildlife conflict were received. Out of seven (7) Reports, two (2) were reports related to cheetah attacks, two (2) reports were related to a leopard, while three (3) were lion attacks in the areas adjacent to Namibia/Botswana border (Kalagadi Park). A total of **17**

Livestock (15 x sheep, 1x cow and 1x Horse) were lost through Human Wildlife Conflict.

Annual game count was conducted to determine wildlife population in two conservancies. In Oskop conservancy, the game count recorded an estimate of **63** (Sixty Three) Gemsbok, **38** (Thirty Eight) Ostriches, 39 (Thirty) Steenbok and **444** (Four Hundred and Forty Four) Springboks.

In /Huibes Conservancy, the game count recorded an estimate of **113** (One Hundred and Thirteen) Steenbok, **5** (Five) Kudu, **161** (One Hundred and Sixty One) Ostriches and **282** (Two Hundred and Eighty Two) Springboks.

For effective daily management and operations of the two conservancies of Hardap region, MEFT supported the regional conservancies with an amount of N\$ 5390.00.

As part of the Ministry's commitment in addressing poverty alleviation and benefits to rural communities, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism started the process of awarding a concession (Farm Sukses in Namib Naukluft Park) to the two conservancies (Oskop and /Huibes) in the Hardap region.

I am also pleased to announce that /Huibes Conservancy was recently awarded N\$ 1.5 million dollars through the Environmental Investment Fund, for the implementation of climate change agriculture development intervention. The Namibia Development Trust is the supporting agency for the implementation of the one-year project.

The predictions for lost income and massive job losses in this sector are particularly painful in rural areas, where the majority of the population eke out a subsistence living, which has been seriously weakened by the recent 6-year drought. At the same time, there are significant job losses in urban areas and large numbers of the unemployed citizens are already migrating back to their extended families in the rural areas as a result of COVID-19. Many young people were also laid off by lodges in the Namib Naukluft and NamibRand Parks, forcing them to migrate to villages such as Maltahohe, Hoachanas and Gochas.

***Honorable Chairperson and inhabitants of the Hardap Region***

The Ministry of Safety and Security is entrusted with the delicate responsibility of maintaining law and order, protecting lives and properties, as well as the provision of safe custody to offenders while rehabilitating them for possible re-integration back into society as law abiding citizens.

***The following crimes were committed during the period under review;***

- Dealing or in the possession of drugs – 227
- Assaults – 134
- Stock Theft – 126
- Drunken Driving – 105
- Housebreaking – 88
- Assault Gender Based Violence – 82
- Warrant of Arrest – 73
- Liquor Act – 35
- Domestic Violence – 26
- Malicious Damage to Property - 26
- Police Act – 23
- Reckless and Negligent Driving – 23
- Theft – 22
- Rape – 21
- Attempted Murder – 14
- Murder – 10
- Immigration Act - 9
- Other Theft – 6
- Possession of Suspected Stolen Property – 5
- Culpable Homicide – 5
- Attempted Rape – 4
- Illegal Hunting – 4
- Robbery – 2
- Arms and Ammunition – 2
- Child Neglect – 2

A total of 2,686 (Two Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Six) tickets to the value of N\$2,903,925 (Two Million, Nine Hundred and Three Thousand, Nine Hundred and Twenty Five Namibian Dollars) were issued during the last year.

***Honorable Chairperson and inhabitants of the Hardap Region***

We are making great strides in bridging the digital divide by providing the needed Information Communication Technology services to communities at grassroots level with the establishment of multi-purpose community centers in Schlip and Aranos. 60 volunteers are trained annually by the MICT regional office in the use of information communication technology.

The regional office of the Ministry of Information Communication Technology has also produced the following documentaries during the period under review:

- Excel in education is a two part short documentary profiling children who performed exceptionally in the final grade 12 results regardless of their poor background. The videos are aimed at encouraging students to take education serious in order to pursue tertiary education and become productive citizens.
- Namibia Striving for a Better Future (NSBF) is a documentary series and TV news reports depicting national and micro development projects and programmes in Hardap Region, which entails filming actual project activities and interviews with regional councilors of all 8 constituencies as well as the beneficiaries and stakeholders. So far the series completed Mariental Rural Constituency, Mariental Informal settlement services, Gibeon constituency, Kriess settlement, Amperbo, Gochas village, Aranos town and Stampriet village. This ongoing project highlights the achievements and challenges in socioeconomic development, thereby giving the citizenry the relevant information on development in Hardap region, and creating a platform for them to assess and voice their views through participatory democracy.
- Hardap Echoes is a 15-minute documentary produced at the early stages of the COVID 19 pandemic, to create awareness and highlight the impact of COVID 19 on businesses.
- Various Covid-19 short video documentaries and TV news reports were shared on MICT Facebook, YouTube and WhatsApp groups. The productions focus on creating awareness and highlighting prevention measures among communities in Hardap e.g. Messages from regional leadership, Social Mobilization and community engagement team at work, Schools reopening preparedness and prevention measures at Dr Lemmer High school and Sonop Primary School). These videos were produced in English, Afrikaans, Nama and other indigenous languages to ensure effective communication, which contributes to enforcement of the preventative measures and adherence to the state of emergency regulations.

Please note that the coverage of development in the rest of the constituencies will be completed as soon as MICT funds are released. Moreover, the dissemination of these informative productions and COVID 19 prevention measures will be extended to the rural communities through a video show programme as soon as the MICT funds are availed.

*Honorable Chairperson, Fellow Inhabitants of the Hardap Region,*

In the agricultural sector, a total of 255 farmers were trained in conservation agriculture, livestock production, rangeland management, animal health, vermi-compost production, soil management, poultry production and financial management.

A total of 1936 farmers received technical agricultural advisory services through farm visits, information days at auctions on drought mitigation strategies including coping mechanisms, poultry production, animal husbandry practices, breeding, registration of cooperatives, inputs into agricultural business plans, conservation agriculture. This also included demonstrations.

A total of 122 beneficiaries have thus far benefitted from the Small Stock and Bee Production Support Project. A total of 1719 ewes and 78 rams were re-distributed. The project is ongoing, with new beneficiaries identified to benefit during this financial year. However, due to droughts livestock losses were incurred and have negatively affected the progress of the project.

Existing and new community and individual gardens were supported through advice and training in horticulture production. A total of 22 existing and new individual and community gardens were supported. A total of 75 farmers received cowpea seeds.

Schools, hostels and line Ministries which have gardens also received the above mentioned services. Vermi compost production was rolled out in 2019 in Maltahohe, and plans still exist to roll out in the whole region. The compost is an organic fertilizer produced from worms. Farmers were trained on soil management and were practically shown how soils are tested and results were interpreted.

A total of 36 farmers were supported through farm mapping, determining carrying capacity (grazing evaluation), poisonous plants identification, solar water, pipeline survey, and bush encroachment. The above are demand driven and requested from farmers.

Under the Land Purchase Program, only one (1) farm was purchased and three (3) families resettled. In terms of post settlement support, a total of *13 farming units of farms in Hardap Region* were installed with solar pumping systems.

**Further**, a total of 81 land rights were registered under the communal land rights registration program. This included 80 new customary land rights & 1 existing customary land right which was transferred.

Government Farm invasions continue unabated. Water is also a concern at some due to dilapidated water infrastructure and boreholes that run dry. Illegal subleasing of farming units by some beneficiaries remains persistent. Applications of communal land rights were referred back due to Traditional Authority disputes.

The Ministry formulated the Harambee Comprehensive and Coordinated Integrated Agricultural Development Programme (HACCIADep) to fast track implementation of the Harambee Prosperity Plan. The overall model is aimed at facilitating market access to small and medium scale agricultural producers and agro-processors, as a means of stimulating sustainable agricultural production and productivity thereby enhancing national and household food and nutrition security.

Under the National Horticulture Support Project (NHSP), a total of N\$600 000 was decentralized to the Hardap Regional Council. All funds have been utilized and benefitted 31 farmers in Hardap region. Farmers acquired seeds, fertilizers, irrigation systems, greenhouse equipment, water tanks, and pesticides on subsidy, to contribute to food self-sufficiency at household and National levels. It is envisaged that these gardens are to increase production, contribute to National goals in ensuring that no Namibian dies of Hunger, through creation of employment and Namibia producing her own food.

The project is on-going and funds will be decentralized again and farmers are encouraged to take full ownership and benefit from this initiative.

The Poultry Value Chain Development Scheme (PVCDS) is an initiative of the MAWF to empower the least privileged communities and reduce disparity in income gaps. It is an important source of cash income for poor rural families, particularly for women.

The majority of the rural poor in Namibia only keep a small poultry flock. The poultry sub-sector has long been and continues to be neglected in the development of agricultural production systems. A rural development scheme, based on rural poultry, can be established as a means of poverty alleviation and food security enhancement. The scheme is aimed to be implemented in the 14 Regions of Namibia commencing this financial year, with the focus on rural areas.

Program Activities will include the provision of subsidy on breeding stock and provision of subsidy on equipment and inputs.

The region received a total of 11 hydroponic fodder production structures from Food and Agriculture Organization, which was officially handed over on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020. This is one of the strategies identified to mitigate the effects of the recurrent drought. These structures are to be distributed throughout the region to identified beneficiaries. A total of 550 farmers are to benefit from the provision of fodder for their livestock. Farmers will undergo training, and are expected to replicate the hydroponic fodder production at their homestead to ensure sustainability. Another component is the provision of veterinary services (vaccination) to their livestock.

The Drought Scheme was implemented as from the 01 May 2019 till 06 April 2020. The following table below depicts the total monetary value of claims received in Hardap region under the different subsidy schemes to date.

<b>Drought Subsidy Type</b>	<b>Total value of claims</b>
Marketing Incentives	N\$ 9,078,480.00
Fodder Subsidy	N\$ 674,766.75
Lease for grazing	N\$ 65,640.00

A total of 250 farmers benefitted from Free Fodder (Maize stover & Lucerne) during the period of implementation of drought.

The region received a total of 2000 bales of grass and Lucerne, and 520 licks which was donated by the African Development Fund. In total 391 farmers benefitted from this initiative.

The Gibeon Agriculture Development Centre (ADC) was renovated to the tune of N\$886 455.94 including an outside toilet.

Guard houses at Maltahohe, Hoachanas and Gochas ADCs were also electrified at a cost of N\$25 197.15, N\$28 197.66 and N\$14 091.42 respectively. Finally, the reticulation system was upgraded at !Hoaxa!nas Agriculture Development Center.

***Honorable Chairperson, Fellow Inhabitants of the Hardap Region,***

I will now proceed to outline the regional response to COVID-19. With confirmation of the first two cases of COVID-19 in the country on March 14, 2020, the President declared a State of Emergency on March 17, 2020.

The severe restrictions were warranted as pre-emptive measures to slow the spread of disease and earn government time to strengthen the public health sector's capacity to adequately respond.

Namibia adopted 4 stages with corresponding measures to gradually ease lockdown restrictions. We are now in Stage 4 of the lockdown measures. Cumulatively the region has now 6 confirmed cases. Two have recovered while the active cases are four (4).

Two confirmed cases of Covid-19 were reported in Mariental district in Hardap Region on the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020. The index case is a 30-year-old male person from South Africa who arrived in Namibia on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020 he was part of the group who were under mandatory quarantine at Hardap Resort in Mariental. The second person is a 35-year-old male is also part of the same group under supervised quarantine at Hardap Resort in Mariental. One new confirmed case was recorded on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The third case is a 20-year-old learner from Mariental High School who travel from Walvisbay to Mariental with public transport. He appeared with signs of loss of taste was tested at the screening facility and transport to Hardap Resort quarantine facility. All the results came out negative. Case four 184 are a 1-year old male baby relocated from Walvisbay on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2020 with his parents. He was tested 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 and results came out as positive.

Case five 185 was a 37-year-old male who relocated with his family his wife and two children to Maltahohe. They were both taken into the isolation facility Keichanchab with the Mother

In terms of **Social Mobilization, Community engagement, media and psycho-social support** a multi stakeholder committee has been established to spearhead the community mobilization and education activities. This committee has also been having their meetings and came up with a response activity plan which was also submitted to the logistics and coordination committee for endorsement. A group of community volunteers consisting of Health assistants, CACOC volunteers, Youth Against Drugs and Crime were trained and have been instrumental in conducting grassroots level health education. RISE Namibia appointed three (3) volunteers to assist with social mobilization. They are currently working with the Community Health Workers in their respective catchment areas.

The National Youth Council appointed 4 volunteers in each of the 8 constituencies across the region to conduct community engagement. The team has since been setting up tippy taps at community level coupled with health education. The committee worked with Nampost on a strategy to ensure social distancing and to maintain hygiene during the pension payouts. A team visited all the pay points in the region to sensitize them about the strategy and a simulation was held at Mariental Post Office before the actual pay outs. This exercise is currently repeated at all post offices in the region.

All post offices in the Hardap Region were also visited to prepare them for the pension pay outs and to do social mobilization in the areas regarding COVID 19. At all these post offices tippy taps was built with assistance from Community Health Workers, Health Assistants, community volunteers and staff from Village/settlements offices.

I thank the Regional COVID 19 Response team under the leadership of the Director of Health and the Director of Development Planning for having worked around the clock to ensure the safety of our

residents. Health coordination meetings are held weekly or as need arises. Daily Situational Reports (Sitreps) are compiled by the Health Regional Management Committee and forwarded to National Level. Efforts to increase isolation and quarantine facilities in the region are ongoing.

Notwithstanding our successes to date, we must remain vigilant and maintain acceptable social behaviour. Our people residing in informal settlements are hard-pressed to abide by the regulations and are less able to insulate themselves against the economic effects of the lockdown measures. Despite these challenges, every Namibian has a personal responsibility to complement Government efforts, by adhering to the regulations. If social and physical distancing protocols are relaxed too soon, we risk secondary 'waves' of infection.

The acts of kindness shown by different members of our society during this time have heartened us all. I must however mention that I am deeply disappointed by the Hardap Region private sector and businesses for their lack of contributions during these trying times. It is at times like this that the private sector must actively implement its social responsibility. Sadly, this has not been the case.

I thank all the Hardap residents for the unity and solidarity, particularly the frontline health workers and law enforcement agencies.

***Honorable Chairperson, Fellow Inhabitants of the Hardap Region,***

I will now outline my vision for the Hardap Region during my tenure of office as Governor. But before I do that I want to give an overview of the current demographic situation as it is on the ground. The statistical information which I want to share with you is based on the Namibia Inter-censal Survey which was last conducted in 2016 by the National Statistics Agency. These statistics are important to consider as we plan our development interventions moving forward. It will also help us to see where the needs are most pressing for the residents of the Hardap Region. Empirical evidence is indeed the very basis of development planning.

The total population size of the region is 87 186, comprising of 30 108 households. A total of 62% are male headed households and 20% are headed by the elderly. 65% of the population never married. This gives us an indication of the breakdown of the family unit which is the basic unit for ensuring healthy communities.

In the education sector, 87% of the learners dropped out, while only 8% attained tertiary education. The literacy rate for the region stands at 84%. Only 18% of our children have access to early childhood education. This helps us to see why so many learners are dropping out of school.

The main source of income is from salaries and wages at 61%, while income from farming only constitutes 3%. It actually means that the majority of Hardap residents are wage laborers.

The total number of households living in shacks is 53%. The main material for the construction of housing is corrugated iron at 64%. The flooring of the dwellings in which Hardap households live is mainly cement at 45% followed by earth and sand at 42 %.

In terms of access to safe water, 97% of the households in Hardap Region have such access. 44% of the households have no toilets, while 34% have flush toilets. The main source of energy for cooking is firewood, as 59% of households use this source. About 77% of the total population owns a mobile phone, while 88% have never used the internet.



As we can see from these statistics, the key sectors that need critical interventions are education, housing, sanitation, energy, access to information and agricultural innovations coupled with access to land.

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

Moving forward to accelerate development in the Hardap Region, my Office will work closely with the Hardap Regional Council and all the line Ministries represented in the Region, to ensure that development is translated into positive change in people's lives. Here I refer to transformational development which involves more than just economic factors. Community welfare must take into account spiritual, cultural, social and economic well-being.

In order to reverse the vicious cycle of inequality, the support of the social stakeholders must be enlisted. In this connection, what is important is the inclusion in this coalition of stakeholders that have great symbolic prestige in society and are supportive of poverty eradication, such as grassroots religious associations, philanthropic organizations, social communicators, solidarity foundations, Non-Governmental Organizations as well as Community Based Organizations.

For this to happen, my office will set up a Hardap Regional Think Tank, an Advisory Council which will serve as the heartbeat and professional and intellectual stimulant, for ensuring that our people regain their dignity and claim their rightful stake in the abundant human, natural and physical resources of our region. This Advisory Council will be chaired by myself so that we can fast track key development interventions.

Participatory planning is the bases for sustainable development. We want to ensure that there is greater accountability and transparency in the development process, by setting clear targets, and by involving the very people who are affected by development in the process. For this reason, my office has been engaging the various Local Authorities, the Councilors and the Constituency Development Committees to explore how best to respond to the felt needs of the people we serve.

We must improve cross sectoral coordination across the region. Further we must strengthen the region's capacity to take over decentralised functions and improve governance and accountability at all levels.

It is the aim of my Office to continue exploring community based planning, emphasizing the involvement of the local community from the very beginning of the strategic and management processes of planning. This consensus-building approach can help our communities to join together in interpreting how they would like their community to develop over the next few years. The principles must be based on assessing the real needs at a local level, developing local awareness and identity, building local partnerships and integrating different perspectives of local groups, stakeholders and professionals. By doing so we can integrate community priorities into our local governments across the Hardap Region, and indeed into our regional government.

Equally my Office is committed to fast track critical sectors that can bring about change in the lives of our people, based on the statistics shared earlier in this presentations. These include innovative and climate smart agriculture coupled with access to land, learner centered education, alternative and climate smart energy, accelerated low cost housing, hygiene and sanitation and tourism.

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

In the agricultural sector it will be important to develop, test and roll out climate friendly agriculture practices, given the recurrent droughts the region faces. We cannot farm the way we used to farm. Droughts are increasingly becoming inevitable and we have to face this reality and plan accordingly. We will therefore need to put in place adaptive measures that will cushion farmers during natural disasters such as drought. Equally it is important to be more vigorous about value addition in the agricultural sector. It is only if we diversify our activities in the sector, that we can create jobs and employment. Value addition has the possibility to stimulate economic activity at local authority level and will reduce rural to urban migration. Value addition is the process in which for the same volume of a primary product, a high price is realized by means of processing, packing and upgrading the quality of the product. Our small farmers get less price of a particular farm produce due to its surplus production, in the case of Hardap it is livestock. This problem can be solved by diversification which creates an opportunity to earn more money from the livestock produce.

It is also critical for farmers to diversify and integrate crop, horticulture and vermiculture into livestock farming. This diversification and value addition are the two techniques for profit maximization and nutritional security. Small scales processing units, organic food processing, traditional crop production, agri-tourism and bio-fuels development are examples of various value-added projects that can support the creation of jobs in the rural areas.

In the education sector it is important to strengthen learner support outside the classroom, in order to add value to the formal education system. Equally greater support is required for teachers and school managers to improve the quality of learning and to improve school management. These can be achieved through active collaboration with the UNAM campus in Keetmanshoop.

The value of arts in education has far too long been underestimated. Engaging with art is essential to the human experience. Almost as soon as motor skills are developed, children communicate through artistic expression. Amongst adults, arts participation is related to behaviors that contribute to the health of civil society, such as increased civic engagement, greater social tolerance, and reductions other-regarding behavior. Yet while we recognize art's transformative impacts, its place in education has become increasingly tenuous. Making deliberate investments in arts and culture will promote the holistic development of the learners and will improve performance.

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

In the energy sector there is no reason why we as a region cannot actively explore generating solar energy resource. The Hardap Region has low cloud cover and up to 12 hours of sunshine. The opportunities are there to farm with sunlight to reduce dependence on expensive fossil fuel energy and to earn income. Statistics show us that 59% of the households depend on firewood as a source of cooking. This is a finite resource that is slowly being over exploited. We need to give nature a chance to heal itself and we must be active citizens in that healing process, rather than merely remaining consumers of this valuable finite resource.

It is also possible to use invasive plant and tree species to generate biogas, at least at a household level in communal areas as this would allow the ecosystems to recuperate from the recurrent droughts we are facing. Furthermore we have wind speeds along the coast and this provides opportunities for wind generated energy.

The statistics have also shown us that although 77% of the population has access to a mobile phone, 88% have never used the internet. Access to information is knowledge, and knowledge is a tool for social change. Information technology such as the internet provides the type of information required to make decisions. People need information for their day-to-day activities and for the development of their environment and their selves. Access to and usage of information is also necessary for improving rural people's livelihood. Information is facts or knowledge provided or learned, it is the facts or knowledge needed to answer some question faced by people in their daily life. Every person needs information for decision making and exploring available opportunities. During my tenure, it will be important to work with the relevant stakeholders to ensure that young people and farmers have access to information.

In the tourism sector we must support communities neighboring parks to benefit from the Namib Naukluft Park through concessions and royalties. The opportunities are there to create tourism products along the tourism route at growth points to stimulate those economies.

Finally, I am aware that housing remains a critical sector which needs to be addressed. Home is more than just a place of shelter—where we live influences every aspect of our lives. Housing quality can impact physical health. Cost burdens reduce the income available for necessities like food and health care. Physical neighborhood attributes also impact mental health, physical fitness, and nutrition. Concentrated poverty, as well as other social and community attributes, further contribute to stress and deterioration of health. Location also influences individual and community identity, the quality and quantity of public services received, social networks, exposure to crime and violence, physical distance and isolation, and other stressors and contextual factors that are supportive of physical and emotional well-being. Those who are most vulnerable, children and the elderly, are most adversely affected by unstable housing conditions.

The right to adequate housing covers measures that are needed to prevent homelessness, prohibit forced evictions, address discrimination, focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, ensure security of tenure to all, and guarantee that everyone's housing is adequate. It can be implemented through an enabling approach to shelter where the Government, rather than playing the role of housing provider, becomes the facilitator of the actions of all participants in the production and improvement of shelter. To this end my Office intends to actively engage all local authorities, the Namibia Housing Action Group, the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia, BTP and the private sector, to ensure that our people are able to have a roof over their heads.

I want to reiterate that improved Service Delivery in the region is key to Good Governance. My Office is of the opinion that, despite the challenges we face, we can take action without requiring financial resources. We have a responsibility to treat each other with dignity and respect. We must cultivate a more efficient and effective performance culture.

Transparency and effective communication with all stakeholders is necessary to avoid erroneous perceptions about corruption. I wish to tell the people of the Hardap Region that the political will to fight corruption is there.

I, The Regional Councilors, Local Authority Councilors, Traditional Leaders and all inhabitants of this region have a role to play to ensure that corruption is uprooted, transparency and accountability is institutionalized and practiced.

On a final note and in conclusion, I want to touch on the subject of political maturity as we see the tides of change sweeping not only over our country, but also in the Hardap Region. Our country has gained independence 30 years ago. The born frees who may not necessarily identify with the experiences that led up to national independence, are rightfully becoming increasingly impatient at what they believe to be a very slow pace of social and economic change in their daily realities.

In many ways, as can be seen from debates, radical impatience, (a feeling that ‘this’ has to stop at once, whatever the cost) is slowly taking root. Many out there think that through the superiority of their minds and the bravery of their ideas, they have come into sole possession of “THE TRUTH” that will fix the nation. An impression is created that politeness and civility are the tools of cowards and self-serving reactionaries. And so foul language and unruly behavior is justified because it has such great potential to play on the felt suffering of our people, especially the youth.

Generations of teaching through our elders and our traditional institutions have taught us better than using mudslinging, and insulting language to bring about change. The heroes and heroines who have come before us to set this country free from the yolks of foreign domination, have swallowed a bitter pill.

I want to remind us all that political maturity requires that large and complex problems necessitate complex solutions. The more immediate and total a solution being offered, the more likely it is that it creates false hope. Human beings are all invariably foolish. For that reason alone, politeness, gentleness and careful consideration become a political virtues. One cannot be both right and cruel or rude. It is inherent in the creation of human beings that nothing will be made perfect; nothing will ever be pure. As we move forward to bring about the change that our people yearn for, let us make tolerance, politeness, active listening and political maturity our virtues.

**Therefore let us go and serve the people of the great Hardap Region with humility and commitment towards their wellbeing.**

**I thank you**