



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR KUNENE REGION

**STEP BY STEP - SHOULDER BY SHOULDER WE MOVE KUNENE COLLECTIVELY**

**OPUWO**  
KUNENE REGION



UNITY



DEVELOPMENT



PROGRESS



# STATE OF THE **REGION ADDRESS** **KUNENE REGION - 2021**

**DELIVERED BY**

HON. MARIUS SIKUNAWA TUYOLENI SHEYA  
REGIONAL GOVERNOR OF THE KUNENE REGION





STATE OF THE  
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***The Chairperson of the Kunene Regional Council Hendrik Gaobaeb***  
***All Regional Councilors present***  
***All Mayors and Local Authority Councilors joining us virtually***  
***Traditional and Religious Leaders joining us virtually***  
***Heads of OMA's in the Region joining us virtually***  
***Our Development partners joining us virtually***  
***The Inhabitants of Kunene Region joining us virtually***  
***Media***

I stand before you today as Governor and Representative of the Head of State in the Kunene Region to address this August house in compliance with Article 110 (b), sub-article (5) and (6) of the Namibian Constitution.

I stand before you today as Governor and Representative of the Head of State in the Kunene Region to address this August in compliance with Article 110 (A), sub-article (5) and (6) of the Namibian Constitution.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you all on your election as Regional and Local Authority Councillors in your respective localities and provide commitment in working hand in hand with you to develop Kunene Region.

I am fulfilling this constitutional obligation amid severe drought our region is faced with and a brutal global pandemic that has produced a period of uncertainty and confusion in communities.

**Honourable Chairperson**  
**Honourable Members**

Storms like these require the steady hands of wise and strategic leadership, whose actions reflect empathy and competence. Your **Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob** and entire government system, we are grateful for your leadership and guidance during these trying times.

This State of the Region Address is a template for hope and transformation, outlining our socioeconomic journey during the period under review, while at the same time highlighting developmental imperatives that confront our unique challenges.



## COVID – 19 Report



**Honourable Chairperson  
Honourable Members**

This period will be recorded in our history as a period that not only tested our resolve, but also as a period that has pulled us back and nullified the significant development progress we have made. It has both deepened and widened the cracks of poverty, unemployment, and inequality.

Covid-19 has caused unimaginable damage to our economic as well as social structures, obligating us to reprioritise and redirect resources to curb the spread of the virus.

It has approximately been a year since we recorded our first confirmed Covid-19 case in the Region, to date we have recorded 1,924 confirmed cases of which 1,771 recovered. It is with sadness that I announce 27 deaths were due to the virus in the Region. So far, a total of 11,965 people tested for COVID-19 samples, currently there are 126 active cases in the Region all in stable condition. A cumulative number of 5,510 people went through the quarantined facilities, of these 5,360 have been discharged.

**Honourable Chairperson  
Honourable Members**

Our frontline workers continue to inspire us, your bravery has eclipsed suffering and circumstance, and is epitomising and showing values that inspires, ennobles and lifts lives.

We are immensely grateful for your selfless and noble service.

Government is relentlessly trying to strike a balance between saving lives and saving livelihoods. The prompt response by Government has enabled us to keep the scourge of the virus at bay. And as we are seeing the effects of the third wave spawning havoc in our societies, we are confident that this prompt action will soon bring calm and peace back into our homes and communities.

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Government's Covid-19 response is built on a 7-tiered approach that is aimed at providing a holistic reprisal to the virus and its effects. the seven pillars of the Covid-19 response strategy are as follows:



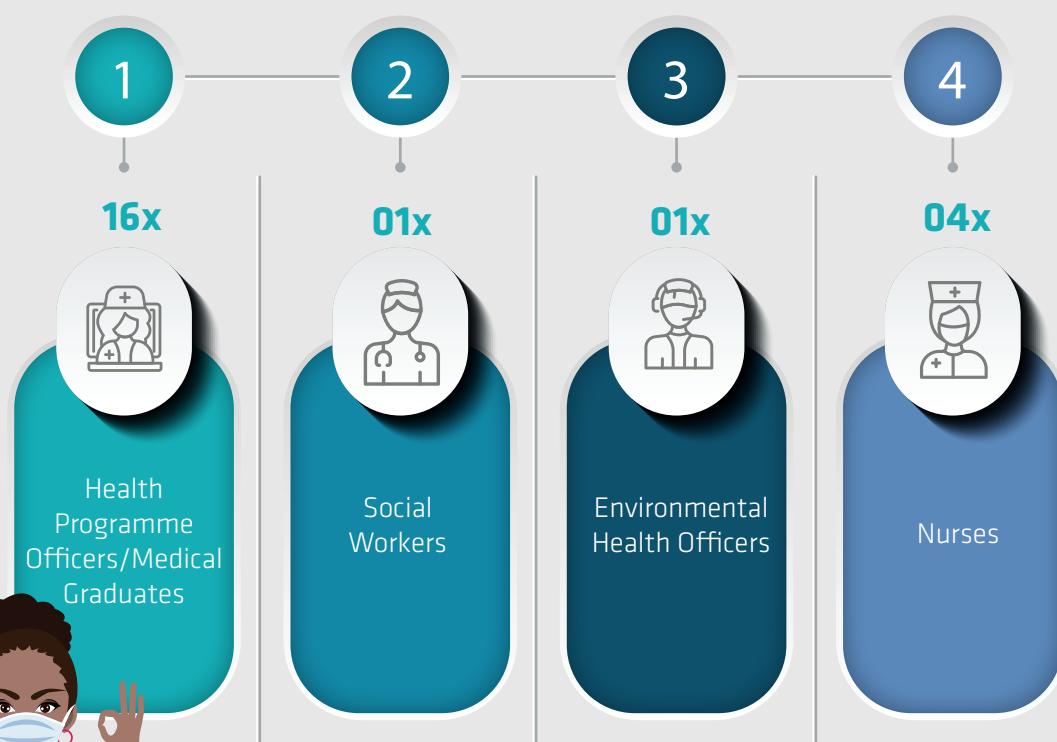


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Each pillar is specifically attuned to deal with the specifics it embodies while at the same time contributing to the overall objective of curbing the spread and eventually eradicating the virus.

## Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

To strengthen prevention, control, and containment efforts of the Covid-19 outbreak, 22 Health Workers were recruited, magnifying the response and prevention rate. The following personnel were recruited:



To further intensify the Covid-19 response the following medical supplies and equipment were procured or received through donations:

Items	Quantities
Received	Received
<b>Beds</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Mattresses</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Ventilators</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Ambulance Ventilators</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>Isolation Chamber</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>Pulse Oximeters</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Oxygen Concentrator</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>Pumps Heavy Duty</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Thermoguns</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>CPAP machines</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>Patient Monitors</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>Coveralls</b>	<b>7241</b>
<b>Hand Sanitizers</b>	<b>1975</b>
<b>Goggles</b>	<b>1050</b>
<b>Shoe covers</b>	<b>1450</b>
<b>Gloves</b>	<b>67300</b>
<b>Face shield</b>	<b>4226</b>
<b>Surgical mask</b>	<b>111,650</b>
<b>NP5 mask</b>	<b>33,010</b>



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The Region also procured and received thousands of Plastics, Body bags, Dust bins, Toilet papers, Gum boots, Brooms, Mops, Hand soaps, Spray bottles, Face shields. One (1) new ambulance was also received for Opuwo Hospital as a backup for COVID-19 outbreak response.

**Honourable Chairperson  
Honourable Members**

Vaccines provide a myriad of benefits, even from the first dose, some of the benefits include lowering the chances of you getting and spreading the virus, slashing the chances of you getting seriously ill if you should contract the virus and reduce hospitalization and death.

**A total number of 3230 people received the AstraZeneca first dose, while 3 people have received their second dose.**

**Equally a total number of 2174 people received their first dose of Sinopharm vaccine while 1184 received their second doses through the COVID-19 immunization programme throughout our health facilities.**

Vaccines are vital for us to bring back some form of normalcy to our society and initiate our economic recovery blueprint as articulated in the Harambee Prosperity Plan II. This aspiration is however being hindered by the games played internationally, which are causing delays in equal distribution and delivery of vaccines, it is cruel that our people are denied access to vaccines and exposed to the brunt of the virus due to vaccine apartheid.

**Honourable Chairperson  
Honourable Members**

Embedded in our 7-pillar Covid-19 response is also the dissemination of correct and relevant information about the virus and the vaccines, it is evident that in this age information can mean life or death for many people. Hence it is vital that people are exposed to accurate information that will enable them to make the right decisions. We applaud the First Lady and her Office for taking the lead and using her social media accounts to debunk myths and misinformation that is circulating in that space. We urge people to visit credible sites and sources to verify all information before sharing and spreading them as truths.

Let us choose life from today onwards.

## Drought



### Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

The Region is currently in the grips of its seventh consecutive terrible drought. The five constituencies of Opuwo Urban, Opuwo Rural, Epupa, Khorixas and Sesfontein have been severely affected. The devastating negative impacts of climate change continue to weigh heavily on the vulnerable communities and farmers leaving them with no choice but to migrate in the search of grazing.

We take strength from Chief Kapikas statement ***“Ovandu ohoromende, nu ohoromende ondjiri ovandu. Nambano ungurisa omasa aehe yOhoromende okuvatera ouzeu ovandu mbu venawo”***

With this in mind, The Office of the Governor together with the Kunene Regional Council reiterates its commitment to foster support during this time. In this regard, we have constituted a task team on mitigating drought with key OMAS and different stakeholders such as the farmers union and traditional authorities who engage regularly to coordinate, mobilize resources, monitor, and evaluate the drought situation.

We applaud the caring Namibian Government for coming to the rescue of the communities and their livestock since 2019 to date.

To be specific, in 2019, The Namibian Government availed **N\$21 million** to the Kunene Region for water provision:

- 16 boreholes were drilled,
- 19 water points were installed and
- 18 boreholes have been rehabilitated,

Animal fodder and Food parcels were availed.

For the year, 2021, The Cabinet, at its meeting of 9 March 2021 resolved the following in favor of Kunene Region:

- Introduce food assistance for affected residents;
- Provide water and water services to needy communities
- Introduce livestock programme including subsidy for lease of grazing and for transportation of livestock to/from grazing.

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Subsequent to cabinet decision the following have been received in the region thus far:

- Items received under OPM

Item	Quantity
Maize meal bags	69 988 (10 kg bags)
Tinned fish	269 212 (400g tins)
Cooking oil	45 651
Fresh Meat	39 Carcasses of wildlife
Instant porridge	347
Bale of Grass	17 334

- Assist farmers with livestock transportation and vaccination.
- Provided portable water to migrated farmers and their livestock.
- Provided mobile outreach services on Health and Social Services
- Equally, we are faced with the challenge of school-going learners,

who are migrating together with their parents we are looking at the best solution for learning to continue where they are.

Im happy to report that the private sector has assisted with **6078** bales of grass and **200** bales of Lucerne , food items for **5000** households and supported development of water infrastructure. We would thus like to take this opportunity to thank them sincerely for assisting our communities and smart partnerships with government,

As we continue with this drought and its devastating effects, I urge all stakeholders to join hands and at the same time assure the Regional inhabitants that there will be no human life lost due to drought, timely distribution of relief items to affected communities and we will uphold high level of accountability and provision of feedback.

## Infrastructure Development



**Honourable Chairperson  
Honourable Members**

Infrastructure development is synonymous to economic transformation, it is a critical component for accelerating growth and reducing poverty. It promotes trade and integration, it is also fundamental for human development, including the delivery of health and education services.

Allow me to report on the progress of government activities and projects in the Kunene region for the 2020/2021 financial year.



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## Housing and Land Delivery



Local authorities serve the basic habitats of humans, their task of providing basic amenities is crucial to human life as it combats urban poverty and contributes directly to the resident's quality of life.

### Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

#### *Kamanjab Local Authority*

The Kamanjab Village Council in the period under review has completed projects at the cost of **N\$ 5,925,000.00**; the projects are as follows:

1. Water Reticulation Ou Rab Informal Settlement at **N\$ 3,990,000.00**
2. Own Water Source Drilling of 3 Boreholes/Pipeline to Reservoir at **N\$ 1,058,000.00**
3. Informal Settlement Upgrading Project (Construction of Sample Housing Units Ou Rab) at **N\$ 210,000.00**.
4. Through The RFA Funding Blading and Regraveling of Roads in Kamanjab at **N\$ 670,000.00**

The Village Council being cognizant of the burdens produced by the Covid-19 pandemic initiated the following projects for social and economic upliftment for youth and women:

For the youth training on brickmaking was conducted by Ohorongo Cement manufacturers, also trainees from COSDEC and NIMT that specialise in bricklaying were employed during the construction of the low-cost housing project. The Village Council also donated material (cloth and accessories) for the making of masks to various local women.

Access to water plays a crucial role in human habitats, it is the bedrock on which human civilisations are built and a core factor of both human and economic development.

During the period under review the Kamanjab Village Council installed prepaid household meters at those households that were previously not having access to water, these households were further provided with **2,000 litres** of free water.



### *Khorixas Local Authority*

#### **Honourable Chairperson**

#### **Honourable Members**

The construction of services is a crucial step in the provision of basic services and the construction of decent housing.

During the 2020/2021 financial year Khorixas Town Council completed the following projects:

- Construction of Services at a cost of **N\$ 4,000,000.00** for land delivery and the provision of housing.
- Construction of Roads in Informal Settlement at a cost of **N\$ 1,454,133.55.**
- Prepaid Water roll out in informal settlement, the project value is **N\$ 1,740,582.50.**
- Sewer Network Rehabilitation at a cost of **N\$ 1,329,469.00** for sanitation and hygiene.
- Road's Maintenance took place at a cost of **N\$ 1,300,000.00** funded by the RFA.
- Housing will also be proved through the Decentralised Build Together Programme at the value of **N\$ 400,000.00.**

The presence of the private sector stimulates economic activity and local economic development, they also construct economic infrastructure that have direct and indirect economic spinoffs in their areas of operation – Mall and Service Station was recently completed in the Local Authority of Khorixas.



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## *Outjo Municipality*

### **Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members**

Decent housing is intrinsically linked to dignity, and the provision thereof restores the virtue and sparks various forms of communityship and social cohesion.

The Outjo Municipality has in the 2020/2021 financial year constructed 12 houses of which 8 are completed and 4 are still under construction at an amount of **N\$ 15,000,000.00**, a further 63 houses have been constructed through the Shack Dwellers Federation for phase 2.

Various land development projects are taking place in the Outjo Local Authority area, most awaiting approval by the Township Board:

- New Extension 5 with 20 erven at **N\$ 7,000,000.00**
- New Extension 6 with 169 erven at **N\$ 24,500,000.00**
- New Extension 7, Etoshapoort (Erf 97) with 116 erven at **N\$ 10,000,000.00**
- Two new Extensions comprising of 107 industrial plots at an amount of **N\$ 40,000,000.00**.

Construction of services are currently underway in the:

- New Extension 4 with 243 erven at **N\$ 42,700,000.00**
- New Extension 5 in Etoshapoort with 251 erven at **N\$ 30,100,000.00**

There are available for sale 60 residential plots in the Outjo Estate zone, due processes have been completed, the preparation of the plots cost **N\$ 20,000,000.00**.

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The Outjo Council's Social Development Project is nearing completion, the **N\$ 450,000.00** community project is situated in Etoshapoort Informal Settlement Area and will house a Clinic, Police Station, Library/Small Study Hall, Municipal Office, Ablution block and a Police holding cell. The project brings together people from different sectors of the community, is sponsored by local businesses and employs 20 locals.

For growth inducing development to take place, a conducive environment for private sector to exist and thrive is an imperative. These imperatives draw investment for transformation that cuts poverty and unemployment.

- A new 24/7 Drive Through Shop-Multi Tyre Garage valued at **N\$ 2,000,000.00** has been completed and is in operation.
- A **N\$ 12,000,000.00** new Built-it Complex has been constructed and in operation.
- A KAAP Agri valued at **N\$ 1,200,000.00** has also opened in Outjo.
- The construction of the Crocodile Park and Restaurant is ongoing and stands at 85% completion, the **N\$ 15,000,000.00** project is open for the public with crocodiles already on site.
- The construction of the Farmhouse Restaurant and Campsite has commenced and 35% of the project is completed.
- 40 hectares have been allocated to the ASNA Poultry Farming **N\$ 70,000,000.00** project.

Since its inception, the Mayoral Prosperity Fund has offered philanthropic services to various individuals and sectors to the tune of **N\$ 217,096.00**, these include:

1. Medical assistance at **N\$ 42,500.00**
2. Education at **N\$ 93,760.00**
3. Sports at **N\$ 6,500.00**
4. **N\$ 6,330.00** for a house that burnt down.
5. **N\$ 12,497.00** for a social case
6. **N\$ 3,000.00** for the Miss Namibian Beauty Pageant
7. **N\$ 22,509.00** for SMEs and **N\$ 40,000.00** for the Legacy Centre



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## *Opuwo Town Council*

### Honourable Chairperson

### Honourable Members

- Through an agreement between Development Workshop Namibia and Opuwo Town Council planning and surveying of 473 erven in Ext 11 was completed.
- Formalisation of Katutura informal settlement is in progress through the Inclusive Urban Planning under MURD and GIZ, once completed it will cater for 500 erven.
- The formalisation of Otuzemba informal settlement is underway and will cater for about 1400 erven.
- Provision of Water & Sewer to 97 erven under the Shack Dweller Federation is in progress at a cost of **N\$ 1,300,000.00.**
- Construction of Storm water Channel worth **N\$ 1,109,200.00** is in progress in DR Kuaima Riruako Street.
- Road Graveling at Otuzemba Extension 2 was completed at a cost of **N\$ 899,685.00** funded by RFA.
- Road Clearance at Otuzemba Informal Area and Debushing – To create road access to 500 erven was completed at a cost of **N\$ 740,000.00.**
- Construction of Epupa Open Market, phase one is nearing completion at a value of **N\$ 4,500,000.00.**

Private donations assist local authorities in providing the necessary basic services, during the period under review Opuwo Town Council received the following donations:

- From the Development Workshop Namibia an ablution block was constructed in Otuzemba, at a cost of **N\$ 57,000.00.**
- Open market stalls valued at **N\$ 1,250,000.00** is being constructed and was sponsored by GIZ.
- **N\$ 50,000.00** worth of boardroom equipment was received and **N\$ 100,000.00** worth of food items were received from Prime Genesis Fishing Company

### Honourable Chairperson

### Honourable Members

The pandemic coupled with the prolonged drought has further inflamed the ability of Local Authorities to render quality service to residents, unemployment has skyrocketed while the need for clean water and sanitation has not declined. The lack of tourist and farming induced local economic activity in towns put to slumber any economy that was awakening, revenue has dwindle and the debts owed to service providers like Namwater continue to rise.

## Education



### Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

Education amplifies a person's chances of fully benefiting from the opportunities provided by economic growth, through increased ambition education nurtures talent and inspire talent development that meets individual as well as societal aspirations.

It meets the demands of a growing economy, by increasing how efficiently knowledge, information and resources are transformed into tangible goods.

Covid-19 has exacerbated the inequalities that exist in the society, it has shown us the importance of clean water, hygiene and sanitation. This picture has enabled us to recognise the diverse socioeconomic circumstances of our communities and the need to prioritise the key elements that bring coherence in our fragmented society.

Government is constantly trying to bridge these gaps through the construction of public and social infrastructure. To curb the spread of Covid-19 and ensure access to sanitation and hygiene ablution facilities were constructed at the following schools at an amount of **N\$ 9,157,255.30**:

- Etoto West Unit at **N\$ 638,999.86**
- Otjerunda Combined School at **N\$ 642,444.53**
- Otjinungua Unit at **N\$ 735,268.69**
- Okahozu Primary School at **N\$ 637,771.69**
- Otjapitjapi Primary School at **N\$ 637,777.80**
- Otjiu Primary School at **N\$ 681,650.77**
- Okondaunue Primary School at **N\$ 639,502.78**
- Hungua Combined School at **N\$ 637,991.63**
- Musaso Combined School at **N\$ 640,197.76**
- Otjondeka Primary School at **N\$ 657,366.86**
- Okorosave Primary School at **N\$ 647,268.44**
- Jack Francis Primary School at **N\$ 641,466.41**
- Kamanjab Combined School at **N\$ 644,143.88**
- And Etoto Primary School at **N\$ 675,404.20**

All except the ablution facility at Etoto Primary School is complete, project status is at 40% completion for that project.

### Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

The construction of the Kunene Vocational Training Centre has commenced, and significant progress has been made in this phase already. The centre will impart the necessary technical skills needed for growth and transformation within our region and country at large. A considerable number of locals have been employed, which is reducing the pressures of poverty and hunger by putting food on the table and paying for basic amenities.



## Agriculture



### Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

The people of the Kunene Region have been at the mercy of climate change, this has placed immense pressures on households' ability to provide food and income. The ongoing drought has changed the landscape of our region.

The savannas that were once filled with the footprints of Sanga cattle and Damara sheep have become plantations of whirlwinds and sandstorms, oxen that were fattened for auction to add to education fees are now something of a distant memory and shepherds have now become an extinct breed.

This climate induced natural disaster has shown us that traditional farming methods are becoming redundant and are no longer sustainable. The devastating drought is teaching us that there is also a need to prepare for the unpredictable effects of climate change.



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## Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

Water provision remains a priority during this period, as the source of life – access to clean water is a development imperative that we strive to fulfil; taking into consideration the effects of Covid-19 and the prolonged drought which have both magnified the importance of water.

- In the period under review, through the 1 Million fund five areas were identified and installation was completed, they are Ouondjupa, Outjoue, Ondauka, Okovasiona and Arbeidsadel.
- Through the 21 Million project the Dagbreek and Mesopotamia boreholes were completely installed and the one at Goeiehoop Post rehabilitated.
- Under the In-house Drilling project, the following drilled drought boreholes were installed:

Village	Constituency	Status
Otjerunda	Opuwo-Urban	Completed
Otjijarua	Opuwo-Urban	Completed
Okapembei	Epupa	Waiting Material
Otjaparakaha	Epupa	Completed
Etanga	Epupa	Complete
Duurwater	Kamanjab	Waiting for Material
Toevlug	Outjo	Waiting for Material
Queen Sophia	Outjo	Waiting for Material
Groenvlei	Khorixas	Waiting for Material
Quavadis/Middle Post	Sesfontein	Complete
Seringkop	Outjo	Waiting for Material

The EIF Rehabilitation ensured that the following boreholes were rehabilitated:

Village	Constituency
Duineveld	Khorixas
Dorsland	Sesfontein
Makalani Homestead	Sesfontein
Gainatseb Homestead	Khorixas
Swaartdam	Khorixas
Houmoed Homestead	Khorixas
Wolva Homestead	Khorixas
Dagbreek Post	Khorixas
Driekrone Post	Khorixas
Kyper Post	Sesfontein
Rooidak	Khorixas



During the period under review, MET Rehabilitation programme rehabilitated boreholes at:

Village	Constituency
Omunuandjai	Opuwo-rural
Otjozongombe	Opuwo-rural
Ondanga	Opuwo-rural
Okarumbu	Opuwo-rural
Liberia (Erora)	Opuwo-rural
Erora	Opuwo-rural
Otjiu-East	Opuwo-rural
Okozoserandu	Opuwo-rural
Orovipute	Opuwo-rural
Okanaendi	Opuwo-rural
Okonjota	Opuwo-rural
Outjete	Sesfontein

In conjunction with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture for the provision of clean running water at rural schools and communities – tanks were successfully installed and water delivered at the following sites:

Repairs	Tanks Installation	Tanker Deliveries
Otjitanda	Ongongo	Orumana
Otjikondavirongo	KM Maundu	Ohungumure
Oukongo	Otjitoko	Oukongo
Ohaijuua		Otjapitjapi
		Otjiu-east



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## Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

The Dry Land Crop Production Programme (DCPP) is completed at a value of **N\$ 450,000.00** and benefited **1,134** people of which **733** were females.

Other agricultural projects that have been initiated in the period under review play a notable role on the journey to food security by minimising input cost – these initiatives reduce the pressures placed on vulnerable to procure these resources giving them ample energy to focus on food production.

- A total of **113** people will benefit from the Horticulture subsidy valued at **N\$ 700,000.00**, the project is ongoing.
- The **N\$ 300,000.00** Poultry subsidy will benefit **4** people; the project is on-going.
- Through the Small Stock Development and Distribution to Communal Areas (SSDDCA) a total of **22** people benefited, this is a revolving program – where recipients after a few years donate back to the Ministry to enable them to assist other vulnerable households.

## Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

To date the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) has invested more than **N\$ 100 million** in Kunene region with socio economic development intervention ranging from improving food security, water infrastructure that enhance water security, green technology mostly investing in clean energy that directly benefit the communities, livestock reproduction transformation and restocking and livelihood diversification amongst others.

The IREMA Kunene Project one form of response to mitigate the effects of climate change. The project focuses on the small holder farmers who are experiencing the burdens of climate change in the Sesfontein, Fransfontein and Warmquella areas, IREMA serves as an umbrella for various projects such as dissemination of drought tolerant seeds and drought resilient small stock, provision of energy efficient stoves, supporting backyard gardens and many more.



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The following was completed under the IREMA initiative in the financial year under review:

- Supply and installation of irrigation system at Sesfontein community garden at a cost of **N\$ 14,375,140.00.**
- **N\$ 32,494,400.00** has been allocated to Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of the Warmquelle & Khowarib irrigation scheme projects. this work entails rehabilitation of the two green schemes (Khowarib and Warmquelle), 3 boreholes at Khowarib and the 6 km galvanised water pipeline from Ongongo fountain to Warmquelle green scheme, the project is geared for horticulture and fodder production.
- Supply and delivery of boergoats: **425** does and **22** bucks (small livestock revolving scheme) at **N\$ 900,000.00**, phase 1 animals were distributed in November 2020.
- Consultancy service to develop an early warning system (EWS) tailored for the Kunene region at a cost **N\$ 798,363,20.**
- One Hundred forty-seven tons animal fodder supplied and delivered at a cost of **N\$ 1,199,999.70** in November 2020.
- Consultancy service to conduct a disaster risk reduction assessment for the IREMA project in Kunene region at **N\$ 425,000.00.**
- Supply and installation of irrigation system at Fransfontein this entails installation of drip irrigation system and the rehabilitation of water infrastructure at Fransfontein, at a cost of **N\$ 12,520,345.00** – the manhole is currently under construction and the rehabilitation of the main pipeline is underway.
- Manufacturing and supplying **300** energy efficient stoves were manufactured and supplied at a cost of **N\$ 1,542,450.00.**

The Improving Rangeland and Ecosystem Management Practices of Small Holder Farmers under Conditions of Climate Change in Sesfontein, Fransfontein and Warmquelle Areas (IREMA), is a welcomed breath of fresh air especially for the drought-stricken farmers. The IREMA project is a reflection of the ambitious agricultural goals we set at last year's SORA, the notable unique feature of the initiative is that it is built on the strong foundation of collaboration and uses the talent available in the region through DAPEES under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform. The Ministry is a stakeholder of the IREMA project. The overall spending on the IREMA project during the period under review is **N\$ 64,255,697.95.**



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The EIF also during the 2020/2021 implemented the following initiatives through the Empower to Adapt: Creating Climate Resilient Livelihoods through Community Based Natural Resource Management (EDA Project EIF):

- Through promoting Climate Independent Livestock based Production for Resilient Livelihoods in Uibasen-Twyfelfontein, Sorris-Sorris and /Audi Conservancies 4 boreholes were completed with agricultural activity on-going at a cost of **N\$ 4,860,716.90.**
- Twelve boreholes were rehabilitated and household poultry farming is on-going in the Doro !Nawas, #Khoadi //Hoas and Khoro !Goreb Conservancies through the Enhancing Community Adaptation through Climate Change Integration and Mainstreaming Local Level Resource Management at the value of **N\$ 5,147,820.00.**
- Two hydroponic units were completed, small stock kraal was established and around 96 goats procured for the breeding scheme under the production of fodder through the use of hydroponics system to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable small-scale livestock farmers in Ehi-rovipuka conservancy, the project value is **N\$ 4,500,000.00.**
- The rehabilitation of 42 boreholes is currently underway at a cost of **N\$3,575,465.00** under the Conservancies and Community Forests in Kunene - actions to adapt to climate change.
- A hydroponic irrigation system is being setup in the //Huab Conservancy at a cost **N\$ 2,491,000.00.**
- A total of **N\$ 20,575,001.90** was spent by the EIF in the 2020/2021 financial year to assist conservancies in mitigating the effects of climate change in the agricultural sector as well as for water provision and security.

In the period under review the EIF further through its Grants Portfolio (local resources) executed the following projects:

- Uibasen Community Garden-Self-sufficient community based Agricultural Project at a cost of **N\$ 350,000.00**, this project completed.
- At **N\$ 440,978.78** Ehomba Community project, a Sustainable agriculture project is benefiting mostly the indigenous and previously disadvantaged communities of the Himba and Ovatuue.
- Ensuring a diversification of agricultural production to expand horticultural production in the region through the Vila-vandu Community Project costing **N\$ 320,000.00.**





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**Honourable Chairperson  
Honourable Members**

Land is central to economic growth; it shares a direct link with food security and the reduction of hunger. This primary factor of production is the birthplace and home of our natural resources, provide the foundation for our public as well as social infrastructure and provides us with a space to live and be mobile.

Those that own the factors of production own the wealth; to reduce wealth inequality and improve participation of Namibians in the economy, the resettlement programme has since its genesis provided previously disadvantaged Namibians with agricultural land to contribute to food security.

During the period under review the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform through the Directorate of Land Reform acquired four farms (Farm Patton 328 No. 328, Alexander No. 324, Chorab No. 750 and Mona No. 872) with a total land size of twenty thousand, eight hundred and nine hectares (20,809) and three beneficiaries (1 male and 2 females, from Kunene Region) were resettled at Farm Lusthof.

Two hundred and seventy-eight Customary Land Rights and Nineteen Leaseholds land rights parcels were mapped, verified, ratified and approved by the Kunene Communal Land Board and certificates issued to the applicants. **Thirty-four thousand, six hundred and thirty-two dollars and forty-nine cents** were collected through lease rentals on both commercial and communal areas.

Lack of funds, transportation, inadequate staff complement, illegal sub-leasing of resettlement farming units, overlapping Traditional Authorities' areas of jurisdiction and land disputes are some of the challenges the Directorate of Land Reform faces.

## Health



### Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

There is an ancient adage by the Roman poet Virgil depicting the importance of health, it goes like this “The greatest wealth is health.” Simply put good health improves and optimises performance, it helps fight diseases and infections, as well as raising motivation and morale.

Healthy people create a healthy economy, live better and more fulfilling lives and make better societies.

During the 2020/2021 financial year, the following projects were completed:

Project description	Project Value
Minor renovation of the boundary wall which was destroyed by Elephants at Anichab clinic	N\$ 58,364.28
Minor renovation of clinic toilet leakages and staff house as well as fencing the staff house at Frasfontein clinic.	N\$ 243,003.40
Emergency construction of shower ablution block for COVID-19 at Opuwo hospital	N\$ 251,040.82
Minor repair of locks burglar door, toilet etc. at Kamanjab Health centre	N\$ 49,444.00
Minor renovation of in theatre at Opuwo district hospital	N\$ 225,328.50
Construction of new isolation unit in Opuwo Hospital	N\$ 3,000,000.00
Renovation of the Cuban Volunteers house at Opuwo district hospital	N\$ 178,172.94
Minor renovation at the Khorixas hospital casualty and theatre	N\$ 371,982.06
Renovation of the Opuwo clinic, kitchen, laundry and wards.	N\$ 556,811.19
Minor renovation at Khorixas hospital's ward, OPD, CDC and TB Department	N\$ 432,762.47
Renovation of the Doctors flat/house and OPD at Opuwo hospital	N\$ 160,507.95
Electrical repair works needed at Outjo district hospital maternity ward.	N\$ 263,519.46
Minor renovation in theatre at Opuwo hospital	N\$ 225,328.50
Electrification renovation at theatre, kitchen and repair to the streetlights at Opuwo hospital	N\$ 84, 044.72
Minor renovation of clinic toilets leakage and staff house as well as fencing the staff house, Khorixas Fransfontein clinics.	N\$ 243,003.40
Repairs and services of incinerators in Opuwo, Khorixas and Outjo hospitals	N\$ 1,071,000.00
Renovation of the Cuban Volunteers house at Opuwo District Hospital	N\$ 178,172.94
Renovation of the Doctor's flat house No. 3 Opuwo hospital	N\$ 181,163.90
Minor renovation at the Khorixas hospital, casualty and theatre	N\$ 371,982.06
Electrification repair works needed at Outjo district hospital maternity ward	N\$ 263, 519.46
Minor renovation (civil) works needed at Outjo district hospital maternity ward	N\$ 1,081 249.30
Renovation of the Doctor's flat/house no. D at Opuwo hospital	N\$ 160, 507.95
Minor renovation work needed at Outjo district hospital maternity	N\$ 263,519.46

**Honourable Chairperson  
Honourable Members**

**Ohorongo Cement donated beds, mattress and trolleys to the Opuwo District Hospital**

- The estimated value of the donation is **N\$ 890,000.00** and succeeds the donation of two containers with medical equipment valued at **N\$ 2,300,000.00**. This donation consignment consists of **33** hospital beds with mattresses, as well as other valuable medical equipment required by the hospital, and also includes an operating table.

Donations of food as well as a television set was received from the Office of the Governor of Kunene Region to Kazetjidire Angelika Muharukua Opuwo Maternity Waiting Home.

Donation of the container from Round Table Hochland 154 was received for the construction of a containerized clinic at Otjinungwa/Marienfluss.





## Safety



### Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

Law enforcement plays a pivotal role in our societies, they maintain law and order, protect lives and property, prevent crime, reduce fears associated with crime and improve the quality of life.

Work on the Kunene Police Regional Headquarters in Opuwo commenced last year, and the project is on-going. The project is valued at **N\$ 65,438,453.80** and earmarked for completion in 2022.

We are a peace-loving community and place great emphasis on tolerance and peaceful co-existence:

- Stock theft decreased from **285** in the previous financial year to **104** during the period under review:
  - o Total number of livestock return to rightful owners:
  - o Large Stocks (cattle): **291**
  - o Small Stocks (goat and sheep): **650**
  - o Criminals arrested for stock theft: **353.**
- Crimes associated with narcotic drugs decreased from 106 in the 2019/2020 financial year to **60** in the 2020/2021 financial year:
  - o Criminals arrested for Narcotic drug: **291.**
  - o Street value of Drug confiscated from criminals **N\$ 582,502.00.**
- 46 Gender Based Violence were reported during the period under review compared to **60** in the previous period:
  - o GBV is an evil and inhumane manifestation of cowardice, the need to control women and children is not a sign of masculinity nor is it a sign of power. Gendered crimes reflect the hostile nature of our societies. It is time that every leader and every person denounce and condemn the heinous crime that is GBV.
  - o 106 arrests connected to GBV were made.
- Since the inception of the COVID-19 curfew **1040** persons were charged for contravening Covid-19/curfew regulations in terms of Public & Environmental Health Act of 2015.
- Security situation along the common border:
  - o **47** Cross border crimes were recorded.
  - o **21** Border incidents registered.
  - o And 3 major operations conducted.



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## Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

There is still in our midst explosive devices which are remnants of the pre-independence war, **234** of these devices have been destroyed and **73** were removed during the 2020/2021 financial year.

The safety and security fraternity faces a myriad of challenges that impede the full enforcement the law:

- No gazetted border post in the region, Ungazetted border post contribute to illegal cross border crimes and indeed disadvantaging border communities' trade.
- Draught situation in the region forcing migration of communities to different places which leads to Land and grazing conflicts and stock theft.
- People reluctance to comply with Covid -19 Pandemic/curfew Regulations especially at funerals and weddings.
- Escalation of large illegal immigrants (Angolan Citizens) due to hunger
- Uncontrolled airstrips and aircrafts within the region.
- Only one Police Mortuary in the region (with no dissection room).
- Limited accommodation spaces for members (particularly at Outjo, Khorixas and Omakange Police Stations).
- Inappropriate Network coverage and poor road infrastructures to reach remote areas
- Escalation of Human/Wildlife Conflicts in the region.
- Illegal Mining and no Mining Inspector in the region
- Overcrowding of cells in particular Opuwo, Outjo and Khorixas Police Stations

Despite the complex challenges mentioned above, it is laudable that the security situation in the region is under control, the ability of the Police Force to strategize and utilise what they have to mitigate escalation of crime is truly inspiring.

## Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

During the period under review **5073** births were registered, **5205** identity documents registered with **4694** identity cards were collected and **641** deaths recorded. With the joint outreach programme with Ministry of Health and Social Services – the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security registered **153** births. Through the Ministry's mobile outreach programme 339 births were registered, **42** duplicates issued, **540** new IDs applied for, **19** data updates and 18 deaths registered.

I am happy to announce that the Regional Office Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security is completed, situated in Opuwo the office cost **N\$ 25,000,000.00** to construct.

## Telecommunications



**Honourable Chairperson  
Honourable Members**

Telecommunication is now the key element of economic growth. Technology is linked to innovation and innovation is intertwined with economic development.

We cannot have one without the other.

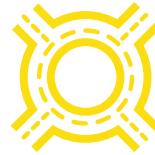
Challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic has taught us the advantages of technology as working from home and e-learning are some of the flexible methods that has allowed us to actively participate in the economy while protecting ourselves from the possibilities of infection.

Thus, the construction of infrastructure that allow for the development of the ICT sector is an imperative.

During the second phase of MTC's 081Every1 campaign, 2 of the 3 network towers have been constructed and are live – the 2 active sites are Etoto and St. Michael's Mission. Three Rural LTE sites have also been activated and are live in the Region, they are Khorixas, Putuavanga and Okangwati.



## Road Infrastructure



### Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

Roads are arteries of access, connection, and trade, they link people to opportunities and potentialities. They bring together the different components of development, they are the pulse of the economy.

Status report on the Swakopmund – Hentis Bya – Kamanjab road project single line construction, Phase II which comprises of Section A: Kamanjab to Khorixas (105kms) and Section B: Khorixas to Uis (115kms), the consultants for Section A are Tulipamwe Consulting Engineers while the joint venture between Windhoek Consulting Engineers/Knight Piesold Consulting are the consultants for Section B. No Contractor for Phase II has been appointed yet.

The feasibility study for the Preliminary Design and Detailed Design and site inspection for the upgrade to bitumen standard of the access road from Opuwo via Okangwati to the Baynes Hydro Power Plant was completed, it was concluded that the access will be upgraded to bitumen standards.

The Road's Authority is also planning on upgrading the following roads to bitumen standards by 2022/23 FY and beyond as per Medium to Long-Term Roads Master Plan (MLTRMP);

- MR 124 Opuwo – Sesfontein (150km)
- DR 37000 Opuwo – Epupa (180km)

## Energy



### Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

Electricity is a key player in business operations, product creation, learning, safety, and innovation. It is the heart of technology and the root of the digital age. Our growth will be sluggish without energy.

NORED one of the electricity utilities that operate in the Kunene Region has completed the following projects valued at **N\$ 4,761,000.00**, here is a synopsis of the projects:

- Electrification of seven teacher's houses at Otjomuru **N\$ 160,000.00.**
- Electrification of Otuzemba & Shackdwellers at **N\$ 3,540,000.00**, the site handover took place on the 4 June 2021.
- Electrification of Chief Kapika's house at **N\$ 11,400.00.**
- Electrification of Omakange No.2 at **N\$ 1,050,000.00** (2021/2022 Financial year).

NORED is also through their CSR programme supporting student internship at a value of **N\$ 12,000.00**, these 2 students are attached at Opuwo office for six (6) months intervals in line with the MoU signed with Vocational Training Centres in NORED's area of operation.

### Honourable Members Honourable Chairperson

CENORED another energy utility operating in the Kunene Region, in 2020/21 spent **N\$ 2,697,198.33** in the following Network Operation projects:

- Upgrade of Mini-Substations, RMU's, Transformers complete and ring feeders at **N\$ 1,419,908.29** in Khorixas.
- LV overhead lines replaced with underground cables and old rusted metal kiosks replaced with new fibre glass kiosks at **N\$ 306,488.85** also in Khorixas.
- In Kamanjab, total of **N\$ 240,360.70** was used to upgrade Mini-Substations, RMU's, Transformers complete and ring feeders.
- **N\$ 570 705,49** was spent to LV overhead lines replaced with underground cables and old rusted metal kiosks replaced with new fibre glass kiosks in Kamanjab.
- Shading and benches for seniors for **N\$ 159,735,00** at the Council.

Climate change has exposed us to the impact of our actions on the planet, challenges posed by climate change delay economic transformation and act as barriers to poverty reduction, one way to attenuate the impact of climate change is to diversify our energy source.



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Green energy is reliable, resilient and renewable – we are modernising our development agenda by transitioning to clean energy to fuel our economic aspirations.

Through Empower to Adapt: Creating Climate Resilient Livelihoods through Community Based Natural Resource Management (EDA Project) funded by the EIF, I am pleased to report on the following green energy projects completed in the period under review:

- Construction of a Solar Power Plant with a Capacity of 150 KW at peak (Climate Proof Infrastructure) to provide clean power and revenue via offtake agreement the project cost is **N\$ 5,191,468.13** in the Omatendeka Conservancy.
- Construction of a Solar Power Plant with a Capacity of 150 KW at peak (Climate Proof Infrastructure) to provide clean power and revenue via offtake agreement in the Sorri – Sorris Conservancy at a cost of **N\$ 5,191,468.13**.



## Rural Development



### Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

Sustainable economic growth is only possible if development is shared, what is felt in the urban areas must be felt in the rural areas, what is seen in the towns must also be visible in the settlements. We must unequivocally advocate for the equitable distribution of resources. Growth acknowledges uniformity as a basis of improved quality of life and a better future.

To eradicate rural poverty, promote food security and improve sanitation, I report the following projects:

In the 2020/2021 financial year the Self-help projects cumulatively valued at **N\$ 447,387.90**, were distributed as follows:

- Ten Cash/Food for Work projects, that benefited more than **200** people.
- Five farmers were supported with resources through the Support Resources for Poor Farmers initiative.
- And 13 people benefited from the Food Security intervention.

Fifteen beneficiaries benefited from the Rural Employment Scheme at the value of **N\$ 81,918.56**. In the rural sanitation sphere, **1,850** toilets were disinfected at a cost of **N\$ 235,000.00**, while rural toilets that benefited **52** households were constructed, casual labourers were employed to fulfil the task. The total project cost was **N\$ 308,674.88**.

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**Honourable Members**  
**Honourable Chairperson**

In the 2020/2021 financial year – the Kunene Regional Council also implemented the following capital projects:

Project description	Project Value	Project Status
Construction of Water Reticulation in Okangwati: Ohamaremba-Okangwati Water pipeline 160mm PVC of the 4.5 to 6.5 km phase 2	N\$ 2,109,497.91	Phase 2 completed
Construction of Water Reticulation in Sesfontein: Drilled 6 boreholes	N\$ 1,888,142.20	Phase 1 ongoing
Construction of Sewer Reticulation in Fransfontein: Rehabilitation sewer lines and oxidation Pond	N\$ 1,397,855.10	Phase 2 ongoing
Construction of Sewer Reticulation in Sesfontein: Pump station	N\$ 3,123,279.96	Phase1 Completed
Construction of Sesfontein Settlement Office	N\$ 5,896,583.00	Completed
Re-gravelling of road in Sesfontein Funded by road funds administration	N\$ 578,000.00	Completed



## Tourism



### Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members

The COVID-19 has stripped us from capitalising on economic benefits, the sector which sustains many livelihoods in the Region is one of the hardest hit by the pandemic. This has exacerbated unemployment, poverty and their effects.

An important pathway for development, tourism can and will still play a crucial role in the post-Covid economy, thus it is important that we already start putting the needed facilities, infrastructure and services in place.

The EIF remains committed to resource mobilisation both locally and internationally with the purpose of transforming the livelihood of our society, increase resilient, and sustainable management of natural resources.

During the 2020/2021 financial year the Fund has completed through domestic funding the Ada Khaibasen community trust - Capacity building project for Eco-Tourism and Environmental Management in the Conservation area at a value of **N\$ 149,000.00**, as well as IRDNC Kunene - anti-poaching training and capacity building for Conservancy game guards at a cost of **N\$ 455,537.16**. Through its Loan Portfolio the Fund provided Guinea fowls investment to Hobatere Lodge with a loan. The client operates a lodge in the #Khoadi //Hoas Conservancy with the purpose of conserving wildlife and natural resources the loan is valued at **N\$ 3,976,926.00**. the fund has also provided **N\$ 17,000.00** to an Artisan plumber based in Opuwo under the Sustainable Development Goals Impact Facility. The funds were used to purchase equipment, in order to expand the business and increase consumer share.

## Social Welfare Programmes



### Honourable Chairperson

### Honourable Members

Early childhood programmes create the needed platforms that allow for the holistic development of children, it lays the groundwork for improved social skills, better academic performance and ignites a passion for lifelong learning. They also expose children to diversity and boost creativity.

That is why ECD centres are important in our societies, as agents of community development and education. The following ECD centres were completed in the 2020/2021 financial year:

- Katutura Model Early Childhood Development Center (Opuwo) at a cost of **N\$ 2,000,000.00.**
- Orotjirindi (Epupa Constituency), Otuvero (Opuwo Rural) and Puros ECD Centres at a cost of **N\$ 1,100,000.00**
- Renovation of the Ombombo, Warmquelle, Yvone Pickering and Kamanjab ECD centres at **N\$ 800,000.00.**

### Honourable Chairperson

### Honourable Members

Social security nets protect elders and vulnerable people against the pressures of poverty and hunger, these social support systems give poor households income security, reduce inequalities and ensure that growth is shared.

- A total of **N\$ 6,876,250.00** is spent per month to administer government maintenance grants to **27,505** beneficiaries.
- **N\$ 11,096,800.00** monthly on old age grants to **8536** beneficiaries
- **N\$ 4,536,000.00** monthly on disability grants to **3240** beneficiaries

### Honourable Chairperson

### Honourable Members

Disability grant funding for students with disabilities through NSFAF, 8 students with various forms of disabilities were each assisted with tuition and tuition fees for the 2020/2021 financial year. Through the Individual Support Programme 16 individuals with severe disability were assessed and items are being distributed to them. Seventeen pairs of crutches valued at **N\$ 40,000.00** and twenty-six wheelchairs valued at **N\$ 60,000.00** were sponsored by UNICEF, the wheelchairs and mobility devices meant for children are currently being distributed. 12 deaf children accessed to primary education at the Deaf Unit of Kameron Primary School. They were supplied with full school uniforms.



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## Progression

**Honourable Chairperson  
Honourable Members**

In *She Who is unto Herself*, Sam Red writes, “How are we to live with joy and peace in these times of uncertainty? Maybe the answer has something to do with expectations and assumptions?” When we are perplexed, persecuted and struck down; when everyday has become a day of burial, mourning and heartbreak – where do we find the joy and peace? The answer lingers in the quote by Stephen Hawking, “Where there’s life, there’s hope!” Yet fragile the human spirit is confident facing the uncertainty of the future with curiosity and optimism, it is a belief that problems can be solved, and differences resolved.

**Honourable Chairperson  
Honourable Members**

This hope and inquisitiveness must spark a desire to interrogate the information produced by uncertainty to kindle creativity and innovation that will articulate our new economic vision. Putting an emphasis on emerging opportunities generated by the pandemic as well as the drought.

Agriculture is the anchor of our recovery blueprint, the threats on livelihoods and food security amplified by climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic have shown us that the investment in green schemes and the green economy is relevant and needed. Agriculture gives us the needed edge to tackle the immediate dangers of food scarcity and inaccessibility. Agriculture’s value as an economic sector transcends food security and nourishment, contributing 5.9% to GDP in 2020.

Green Schemes are productive modes of arable land utilization, they also remove the dependence on the sporadic rainfall and are a viable way to efficiently use underground water. Effective method of management of green schemes add to green growth and combat climate change. When we move away from traditional methods of farming and embrace technological advances offered by the digital age, we will diminish the uncertainty of crop yields in harvesting season. Backyard and community gardens are also immediate sources of food and nourishment, when nourishment improves, health and productivity also improve translating into economic growth.

It is evident that we need to modernise our agricultural sector, tertiary institutions should serve as birthplaces of innovation and creativity; expanding the research and development in agriculture will enable us to produce drought resilient crops and animals that are both productive and adaptable to our climate challenged environment. Financially incentivised innovation attracts entrepreneurship and businesses; thus, it is imperative that financial institutions relax funding criteria to encourage youth participation in agriculture and agribusiness.



# STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS KUNENE REGION - 2021

Times may seem bleak, but the possibilities are endless – by embracing the new way people work and learn we will adapt to succeed in the digital age. Legacy systems of doing business are being sidestepped by digital ways of doing business. Regional council and local authorities need to reinvent themselves through the strategic use of technology. Digitalization has the potential to accelerate the procurement process as well as improve on project implementation, it enhances capacity and accountability and also boost transparency. It minimises the existence of long queues that form to buy tender documents and pay municipal bills. We urge service providers to lower the costs of credit and data to ensure that digital platforms and services are accessible by the vulnerable and the poor, the digital divide has excluded vulnerable and poor people from accessing the digital space; most children in remote villages are unable to access e-learning platforms because of the cost of data and credit.

The Kunene Region is in a unique position that accords it unique development advantages in both the blue and green economies, while we are introducing projects like IREMA and the Baynes Hydro-Power Plant to access green growth, we need funding from both local and foreign investors to promote green economy initiatives in local authorities and infiltrate the blue economy. We are adamant that our coastline and marine resources are of great economic value. The stable coastline encourages the establishment of a harbour while the tourism prospect of the coast cannot be argued away.

It is the youth and the young at heart that will drive the vision of revival and renewal, innovation is birthed through curiosity and curiosity through uncertainty. When we focus on the flicker of light, we see opportunities and potentials, we see that we need to prepare for the return of the tourists, by constructing municipal bungalows, B&Bs and investing in agri-and-eco tourism. We answer the food security question by establishing green schemes and backyard gardens, and by adding value to our agricultural products through agri-processing. By embracing technology, we expose our children and local authorities to the best possibilities of the 4IR and modernise the route to economic recovery. That little light shows us the economic value of the blue and green economies and the transition into a clean way for economic growth. We are able.

## **Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members**

Arts and Sports have been our source of therapy and lifted our spirits during these trying times. The performance of Namibian athletes internationally is proof that more focus and energy needs to be directed to this sector, with increased funding and investment to commercialise and create an industry that contributes to the GDP.

## **Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members**

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our lives and burnt our livelihoods, the virus is real and deadly. My sincerest condolences to those that lost their loved ones during this period. I urge every person to adhere to the protocols in place to curb the spread of the virus and encourage those that are not vaccinated to go get the vaccinated.





To our frontline workers, your bravery and service is admirable and inspiring, we hope that oneday we will be able to lift your spirits as you lift ours. Thank you once again.

**Honourable Chairperson  
Honourable Members**

Sticks in a bundle can never be broken, in this race when we look back and see a fallen brother and sister we must see beyond race, tribe, religion, gender, politics and status and move to lift a brother, to lift a sister to confidently walk together shoulder by shoulder, step by step and collectively move the Kunene Region.

**God bless the Kunene Region  
God bless Namibia**

*Dankie  
Kai Aios  
Vielen Dank  
Ondapandula  
Okuhepa*

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REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR KUNENE REGION**

**STATE OF THE**  
**REGION ADDRESS**  
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## Unity



### **Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members**

*“When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.”*

This African proverb is a testament that when we are united with intention nothing is too big or impossible for us to achieve. The onus is on us as descendants of heroes and heroines, of freedom fighters and peace makers, of shaman, chiefs and kings; to remember and emulate the common purpose of unity of our ancestors to rescue our shared future.

By promoting the culture of peaceful co-existence, political tolerance, fighting tribalism and promoting equality we unlock many potentialities and opportunities that accelerates development and reduces poverty and inequality. A culture that ensures equal access to opportunities and where prosperity is shared, regardless of colour, race, creed, tribe, religion or gender.

This difficult chapter calls for genuine cooperative ties to be forged, nurtured and maintained, each bringing their weapons of warfare as descendants of the African soil to fight for Kunene Region.

### **Honourable Chairperson Honourable Members**

Traditional Authorities play a crucial in the social and economic development of the region, they serve as mobilising spirits and are promoters of peace and stability. It remains an advantage to have these entities as partners in the creation and promotion of social cohesion that is aimed at the production of national identity and patriotism.

# STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS KUNENE REGION - 2021

## Development



**Honourable Chairperson**  
**Honourable Members**

Surely it has been the worst of times, the social and economic complications produced by the Covid-19 virus, its effects and the regulations put in place to curb the spread of the virus has had a negative impact on economic growth, project implementation and infrastructure development. This has demanded government to reprioritise and redirect resources to nurture the urgent needs of the people, this transition was necessitated by the delicate balancing act of saving lives as well as saving livelihoods.

The challenges are, of course great and as we ponder on the obstacles that frustrate our growth – we are reminded of the importance of learning and knowing how to solve our own problems. We are talking about reviewing and energising agriculture, animating private sector involvement and partnership, boosting technical capacity, and rejuvenating infrastructure.

It is our duty to take the bull by the horns and reinvent growth by identifying strategic opportunities that have been created by the pandemic. And though we are blinded by the effects of the virus, we can through innovation and creative thinking chart a growth-oriented development agenda that is sustainable and guarantees growth that is shared amongst all.

**Honourable Chairperson**  
**Honourable Members**

We appreciate the role private sector is playing during this period, and thus emphasise the importance of the coalition between government and private sector. The private sector and the collaboration build on shared responsibility will serve as core elements in the renewal and economic revival of the post – Covid era. That is why we value and advance smart, and transformative partnerships between various stakeholders, as contributors and influencers of economic growth and development!

# STATE OF THE REGION ADDRESS KUNENE REGION - 2021