



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR:  
OSHANA REGION**

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**STATE OF THE REGION  
ADDRESS (SORA) REPORT  
2026**

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**THEME:**

*“Infrastructure development, youth  
empowerment and social justice for all”*

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**DATE: 22 JUNE 2026**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

Honourable Chairperson of the Regional Council,  
Honourable Regional Councillors,  
Fellow Namibians,

It is both an honour and a constitutional obligation to present the State of the Region Address for Oshana Region for the 2025/2026 Financial Year, in accordance with Article 110A of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia.

This Address provides an opportunity to account to the people of Oshana on the state of development in our Region, to reflect on the progress made during the year under review, to acknowledge the challenges that remain, and to outline our priorities for the year ahead. It is a moment of accountability, transparency and renewed commitment to improving the lives of our people.

I deliver this Address at a time when our country has embarked on a new chapter under the leadership of Her Excellency Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia. In her State of the Nation Address, the President called upon all levels of Government to accelerate implementation, strengthen service delivery and ensure that development programmes translate into tangible improvements in the lives of ordinary Namibians. She reminded us that the true measure of Government's success lies not in plans and policies alone, but in the practical impact these interventions have on the well-being of our people.

This call resonates strongly with the aspirations of the people of Oshana Region. Our Region remains a strategic economic, administrative and social hub of northern Namibia, serving as a centre for commerce, education, healthcare, governance and innovation. The responsibility placed upon us is therefore not only to sustain progress, but to ensure that development reaches every constituency, every settlement and every household.

The year under review has been characterised by continued investments in infrastructure development, education, healthcare, land delivery, youth empowerment, agriculture, social welfare and economic development. Significant progress has been recorded in the implementation of development projects across

the Region, demonstrating the commitment of Government, local authorities, traditional authorities, development partners and the private sector towards improving the quality of life of our people.

While implementation challenges remain, particularly with regard to some nationally coordinated projects, there is much to celebrate. The Region has continued to expand access to essential services, strengthen social protection programmes, improve infrastructure, support entrepreneurship and create opportunities for economic participation. These achievements provide a firm foundation upon which we can build a more prosperous, inclusive and resilient Oshana Region.

As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: accelerating project implementation, creating employment opportunities, strengthening food security, expanding infrastructure, improving service delivery and ensuring that public resources are utilised effectively and efficiently. Guided by the priorities of the 8th Administration, the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) and the aspirations of our people, we remain committed to building a Region where every citizen has the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the socio-economic development of our country.

It is therefore my privilege to present the State of the Region Address for the 2025/2026 Financial Year.

## **2 EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY**

### **2.1 Political Stability**

The Oshana Region continued to enjoy a peaceful, stable and democratic political environment during the period under review. Political stability remained one of the region's greatest strengths and served as a critical enabler for socio-economic development, service delivery, investment promotion and effective governance. The continued commitment of Government, Regional and Local Authorities, Traditional Authorities, political leaders, civil society organisations and citizens contributed significantly to maintaining social cohesion, peace and security throughout the region.

The reporting period coincided with the commencement of a new chapter in Namibia's democratic governance following the successful conclusion of the 2024 Presidential and National Assembly Elections and the inauguration of the country's new leadership. The people of Oshana Region actively participated in

the democratic process, reaffirming their confidence in constitutional governance, the rule of law and democratic institutions.

## 2.2 Security

On matters of security, the Oshana Regional Security Cluster, led by the Namibian Police Force (NAMPOL), has continued to maintain law and order with commendable dedication. I call upon all residents to strengthen their cooperation with NAMPOL and the Anti-Corruption Commission in our shared battle against crime, corruption, and gender-based violence.

During the period under review, the Region recorded a **13 percent reduction** in overall reported crime, with reported cases decreasing **from 11,804** (eleven thousand, eight hundred and four) in 2024/25 **to 10,267** (ten thousand, two hundred and sixty seven) in 2025/26. This achievement reflects the commitment of law enforcement agencies, community members and various stakeholders in promoting safety and security. While progress has been recorded, offences such as housebreaking at residential and business premises, assault with grievous bodily harm, robbery, theft and domestic violence continue to pose challenges to community safety and require sustained interventions.

The fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and domestic violence remained a key priority during the reporting period. The Namibia Police Force, in collaboration with communities and stakeholders, continued to implement awareness campaigns and preventative interventions aimed at reducing violence against women, children and other vulnerable groups. To this end, Encouraging progress was recorded as rape, domestic violence and sexual violence cases **declined by 12 percent** during the reporting period. The number of reported cases decreased from **759 cases in 2024/25 to 670 cases in 2025/26**. These figures reflect the impact of sustained awareness campaigns, community engagement initiatives and strengthened collaboration among stakeholders working to address GBV and promote safer communities. Despite this progress, late reporting of cases remains a challenge, often delaying access to justice and support services for victims.

To further strengthen crime prevention efforts, NAMPOL continued to implement community policing initiatives, public education campaigns and regular patrols in identified crime-prone areas. The Force also intensified collaboration with local authorities, traditional leaders, community structures and other stakeholders through joint operations and public awareness programmes aimed at reducing crime and enhancing public confidence in law enforcement institutions.

### 2.3 Public Service Delivery

At regional level, the Oshana Regional Council continued to provide strategic leadership and oversight in the implementation of government programmes and development initiatives. The Council maintained regular meetings and engagements to deliberate on matters affecting the welfare of residents, while ensuring prudent management of public resources and compliance with statutory obligations. Councilors continued to represent the interests of their constituencies through community consultations, stakeholder engagements and participation in regional planning processes.

The Office of the Governor continued to play a pivotal role in coordinating Government activities, strengthening inter-governmental relations and promoting development partnerships across the Region. The reporting period was marked by a smooth and peaceful transition of regional leadership following the handover of office from the former Regional Governor, **Hon. Elia Irimari**, to the current Regional Governor, **Hon. Hofni Alugodhi Ipinge**, in July 2025. The seamless transfer of responsibilities reflected the maturity of Namibia's democratic institutions and ensured continuity in governance and development planning within the Region. Through the Regional Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC), various Offices, Ministries and Agencies, Local Authorities, Traditional Authorities and public institutions were brought together to monitor the implementation of development projects, review performance and address service delivery challenges. The RDCC remained an important platform for strengthening accountability, collaboration and coordination among development stakeholders, thereby supporting the effective implementation of Government programmes and regional development priorities.

The relationship between the Regional Council, Local Authorities and Traditional Authorities remained cordial and constructive throughout the reporting period. This cooperation contributed positively towards addressing issues related to land administration, settlement development, service delivery and community development. Traditional Authorities continued to play a crucial role in preserving cultural values, promoting social harmony and facilitating development interventions within their respective jurisdictions.

The Anti-Corruption Commission, Ombudsman's Office and other governance institutions continued to advance transparency, accountability and good governance through public awareness campaigns and stakeholder engagements. These efforts complemented Government's broader agenda of strengthening ethical leadership, fighting corruption and promoting responsible citizenship. During the period under review, the region successfully hosted several national, regional and community events that promoted

national unity, cultural preservation and civic participation. These events provided opportunities for citizens to engage with leaders, celebrate national achievements and strengthen social cohesion.



**Photo 1: Official Hand over of office (Left: Hon. Hofni Ipinge, Current Governor, Right: Hon Elia Irimari, Former Governor)**



**Photo 2: Stakeholders engagements for inclusive coordination in achieving excellent public service delivery**

### 3 ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION

Economic activity in the Oshana Region remained resilient during the period under review, supported by trade, public administration, construction, agriculture, transport services, education, healthcare and a growing small business sector. Government institutions, financial institutions, local authorities and private sector stakeholders continued implementing programmes aimed at stimulating economic growth, supporting entrepreneurship and creating employment opportunities.

#### 3.1 Agriculture and Food Security Investment

Agriculture remains a key pillar of economic development and food security in Oshana Region. During the 2025/26 financial year, **Agribank** continued to support agricultural production through the provision of affordable development finance to both emerging and established farmers. Through its Northern Branch, which serves farmers across northern Namibia including Oshana Region, Agribank disbursed approximately **N\$2.8 million** towards **13 agricultural projects**. The financing supported a range of agricultural activities, including aquaculture, livestock production, farm infrastructure development through fencing, acquisition of tractors and agricultural implements, as well as seasonal production inputs. These investments contributed to increased agricultural productivity, improved food production and strengthened the resilience of farming enterprises within the region.

A significant portion of the financing, amounting to nearly **N\$2 million**, was directed towards agricultural mechanisation through the acquisition of tractors and farming implements. This investment is helping farmers modernise production systems, improve efficiency and increase agricultural output. In addition, approximately **N\$650,000** was invested in livestock production, enabling farmers to strengthen cattle enterprises and improve livestock productivity. These interventions support Government's objectives of strengthening food systems, increasing rural incomes and promoting sustainable agricultural development.

#### 3.2 Youth Economic Empowerment & Job Creation

**Oshakati Town Council's** infrastructure and urban development programmes contributed significantly to employment creation during the reporting period. The Council reported the creation of **120 permanent** and **150 temporary** employment opportunities through various municipal operations and development projects.

In addition, the Informal Settlement Upgrading and Affordable Housing Programme generated approximately **232 direct temporary jobs**, while also creating numerous indirect employment opportunities through local contractors, suppliers and service providers. The Council further supported skills development through the provision of 20 apprenticeship opportunities and 15 internship placements, contributing to youth empowerment and workforce development within the Region.

Infrastructure development projects implemented by **Ondangwa Town Council** generated approximately **142 temporary employment opportunities** during the reporting period. The largest contributors were the construction of the Ondangwa Sports Stadium, which created 56 jobs, the Wastewater Treatment Plant with 45 jobs, and the servicing of Extension 28 (Onguta), which created 35 jobs. These projects not only provided income opportunities for local residents but also contributed to skills development and local economic growth through the participation of contractors and service providers.

Development projects implemented within **Ongwediva** generated at least **128 temporary employment opportunities** during the reporting period. The Rural Sanitation Programme accounted for **108 temporary jobs**, while the construction of community shade structures created an additional 20 jobs. Notably, the majority of beneficiaries were young people, reflecting the contribution of infrastructure development programmes towards youth empowerment, skills development and income generation. In addition, the Ongwediva Town Council continued to play a pivotal role in advancing local economic development through targeted interventions aimed at supporting entrepreneurship, informal trading, and investment promotion. During the period under review, **thirteen entrepreneurs were enrolled in a twelve-month mentorship programme**, while eleven **small business owners participated in specialized retail-readiness training**

**Oshana Regional Council** Community infrastructure projects during the reporting period created temporary employment opportunities for young people while providing practical skills development. The construction of community shade structures employed **(20) twenty temporary workers**, of whom seventeen were youth, while the rural sanitation programme employed one hundred and eight **(108) temporary workers**, including **(79) seventy-nine young people**. These initiatives not only generated income but also equipped participants with practical construction and technical skills that can improve future employment prospects.

**Education infrastructure projects** continued to contribute to employment creation and local economic development. Based on the projects where employment data was reported, at least **122 employment**

**opportunities** were created through construction and renovation activities across the Region. These included opportunities for youth, women and local contractors participating in the implementation of education infrastructure projects. Beyond the immediate employment benefits, these investments contribute to long-term human capital development by expanding access to quality education and improving learning outcomes.

A total of **120** permanent jobs and **1,681** temporary jobs have been created in the region during the year under review across various OMA: *Summary Table Below*

Institution	Employment Created	
	Permanent	Temporary
Oshakati Town Council	120	382
Ongwediva Town Council		128
Ondangwa Town Council		142
Oshana Regional Council		128
Directorate of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture		122
Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination (DWSSC)		36
Oshakati Premier Electric (OPE)		306
NamWater – Calueque–Oshakati Canal Refurbishment		67
NamWater – Ogongo–Oshakati Pipeline Replacement		120
NamWater – Oshakati Water Purification Plant Upgrade		250
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>1,681</b>

### 3.3 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Informal Sector Upscaling

The **Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy** made strong progress in **entrepreneurship and enterprise development** during the review period. Twenty-two MSMEs benefited from skills training under the **Agro-Processing Pre-Request Programme (PRP)**, improving production standards and food safety compliance, while one entrepreneur received six months of specialised training in gemstone cutting and polishing at Karibib to promote self-employment in mineral beneficiation. Business formalisation was also advanced, with 1,329 entities registered through BIPA (1,288 Close Corporations, 23 Domestic Companies, one Foreign Company, and 17 Section 21 Companies), alongside 975 MSME certificates issued to improve access to support programmes, procurement opportunities and formal market participation.

Further support was provided through the **Equipment Aid Scheme**, which assisted 15 previously disadvantaged entrepreneurs with equipment and raw materials valued at **N\$866,115**, boosting productivity and job creation. Looking ahead, the Ministry will review the National MSME Policy, expand entrepreneurship training, and strengthen advisory services, with emphasis on innovation, competitiveness, and youth participation. These interventions continue to build a stronger business environment, stimulate enterprise growth, and contribute to regional economic development.

**Oshana Regional Council** through its Internal Procurement Policy deliberately created opportunities for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and informal businesses to participate in public procurement. Of the Council’s Annual Procurement Plan valued at approximately **N\$110.1 million**, 15 percent was reserved for micro-enterprises and informal economy participants. This intervention enabled local businesses to access government procurement opportunities, generate income and expand their operations. Additional employment opportunities were created through infrastructure projects, rural sanitation programmes, agricultural initiatives and other community-based development interventions implemented across the region. Collectively, these measures contributed to local economic growth, enterprise development and job creation.

The **Namibia Investment Promotion and Development Board (NIPDB)**, in partnership with the **Rani Group**, continued to support the growth and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through the Equipment Support Grant Programme. The initiative provides grant funding of up to **N\$10,000 per beneficiary** for the acquisition of business equipment aimed at improving productivity, enhancing operational efficiency and supporting business growth. During the reporting period, six entrepreneurs from Oshana Region successfully benefited from the programme, receiving support to strengthen and expand their enterprises. The intervention forms part of broader efforts to promote entrepreneurship, stimulate local economic activity and empower emerging businesses within the Region.

No.	Business Name	Amount (N\$)
1	Subvectio Trading CC	10,000.00
2	Awana Trading Enterprises CC	10,000.00
3	Konnichiwa Investments CC	10,000.00
4	Individual Entrepreneur	10,000.00
5	Anton Kachaca Investment CC	10,000.00
6	Uniwelcia Investment (Pty) Ltd	10,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>

### 3.4 Trade, Investment and Business Promotion

Access to development finance remains an important catalyst for economic growth, business expansion and infrastructure development within Oshana Region. During the 2025/26 financial year, the **Development Bank of Namibia** approved financing amounting to **N\$11.32 million** for projects and business activities within the Region. The approved funding supported strategic sectors including construction, electricity infrastructure, health services, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, and business services, thereby contributing to economic activity, enterprise growth and employment creation.

The construction sector received the largest share of approvals, accounting for approximately **N\$6.73 million**, while electricity-related investments received **N\$3 million**. Additional financing was directed towards business services, health services, manufacturing and wholesale trade activities. These investments continue to support private sector development and contribute to the Region's broader objectives of economic diversification and sustainable growth.

DBN-supported projects during the reporting period included the construction of classrooms, administration offices, science laboratories, school libraries, ablution facilities and cooking shelters at Olivia Nakale Primary School, as well as electrical construction services involving high-capacity and normal 11kV lines and underground electrical reticulation in Othingo Village South. These investments contribute not only to economic development but also to improved educational infrastructure and access to essential services.

#### 3.4.1 Oshakati Totem Expo

The **Oshakati Totem Expo 2026**, held from **29 May to 06 June 2026**, was successfully hosted in Oshakati, further strengthening its position as a key platform for trade, investment, tourism, and cultural promotion in the region. The Expo attracted more than **59,000 visitors** and featured **159 exhibitors** from various sectors of the economy, including **five international exhibitors from Kenya and Tanzania**, reflecting its growing regional significance and contribution to cross-border trade and business partnerships.

The event was further enriched by the participation of **15 cultural groups representing various Namibian totems**, showcasing the region's rich cultural heritage through traditional performances and exhibitions. Beyond promoting business and entrepreneurship, the Expo provided a valuable platform for cultural exchange, community engagement, and investment promotion. Its success contributed to local economic

activity, strengthened business networks, and reaffirmed Oshakati's role as a leading commercial and cultural hub in northern Namibia.

### **3.4.2 Ondangwa Trade Exhibition**

The Ondangwa Trade and Industrial Exhibition (OTIE) continues to strengthen its position as one of the leading trade and investment platforms in northern Namibia. During the reporting period, the exhibition attracted a total of **230 exhibitors, 18,000 visitors**, and three international exhibitors, reflecting growing confidence in the event as a hub for business networking, market access, innovation, and investment promotion. The sustained increase in participation over the years demonstrates the exhibition's expanding influence and relevance to the regional economy. OTIE continues to provide valuable opportunities for local entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), established businesses, and international partners to showcase products and services, establish strategic partnerships, and explore new markets. The growing interest in the exhibition is a clear indication of the region's economic potential and its commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, industrial development, job creation, and regional economic integration. Through this platform, Oshana Region continues to contribute meaningfully to Namibia's broader objectives of economic diversification and inclusive growth.

### **3.4.3 Ongwediva Trade Fair**

The Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair continues to serve as one of Namibia's premier platforms for trade, investment promotion, innovation, and business development. During the reporting period, the fair attracted an impressive **455 exhibitors**, including **28 international exhibitors**, and recorded attendance of more than **76,000 visitors**. These figures underscore the growing significance of the event and reaffirm Ongwediva's position as a leading commercial and investment hub in northern Namibia.

The fair provides a strategic platform for local and international businesses to showcase their products and services, establish new markets, strengthen business-to-business linkages, and explore investment opportunities across various sectors of the economy. It also creates opportunities for knowledge sharing, technological innovation, skills development, and the promotion of entrepreneurship, particularly among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and emerging entrepreneurs.

Beyond its direct economic impact, the Ongwediva Annual Trade Fair contributes significantly to job creation and income generation through increased demand for accommodation, transport, catering, security,

entertainment, and other support services. The strong participation of international exhibitors further enhances the fair's role in fostering regional and international trade relations while positioning Oshana Region as an attractive destination for investment and business growth. The continued success and expansion of the trade fair reflect the resilience of the region's economy and its commitment to advancing the national development agenda through private sector growth, industrialisation, and economic diversification.

## 4 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Infrastructure development remains a critical enabler of economic growth, service delivery and improved quality of life in Oshana Region. Guided by the priorities of the 8th Administration, Government continues to invest in strategic infrastructure aimed at strengthening regional connectivity, expanding access to essential services and creating an enabling environment for sustainable development. During the 2025/2026 Financial Year, infrastructure development remained one of the key drivers of socio-economic transformation, with a total capital allocation of approximately **N\$357.3 million** recorded under the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), of which **N\$108.1 million** had been expended by the end of the fourth quarter.

While implementation varied across sectors, significant progress was recorded in road construction and maintenance, water and sanitation infrastructure, electricity distribution, health and education facilities, sports infrastructure, urban development, environmental management and community infrastructure. These investments not only improved access to essential services and enhanced economic opportunities, but also contributed to employment creation, community development and the overall transformation of Oshana Region.

### 4.1 Water Infrastructure Development

#### 4.1.1 Bulk Water Infrastructure

NamWater continued to implement major strategic water infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening long-term water security across the northern regions, including Oshana. During the reporting period, progress continued on the **refurbishment of the Calueque–Oshakati Canal**, a critical raw water supply system that serves the Oshakati, Ogongo, Outapi and Olushandja Water Treatment Plants. The project, valued at

approximately **N\$35.2 million**, is expected to enhance the reliability and efficiency of water conveyance to the North-Central Regions and has created **67 employment opportunities**.

In addition, NamWater continued with the **replacement of the Ogongo–Oshakati potable water pipeline**, a strategic project valued at approximately **N\$236.7 million**. The project involves replacing aging infrastructure that has reached the end of its operational lifespan and is expected to significantly reduce water losses, improve system reliability and increase water supply capacity to growing urban and rural communities. The project has created between **120 and 250 employment opportunities** during implementation.

A further milestone was the commencement of the **Oshakati Water Purification Plant Upgrade and Extension Project**, valued at approximately **N\$712.7 million** and financed under the Namibia Water Sector Support Programme with support from the African Development Bank. The project will increase potable water production capacity and strengthen water security for Oshana, Ohangwena and Oshikoto Regions. Upon completion, the upgraded facility will contribute significantly to meeting future water demand while supporting regional economic growth and development. The project is currently creating between **250 and 500 employment opportunities** during construction.

#### **4.1.2 Urban and Rural Water Infrastructure**

During the period under review, significant progress was made in strengthening water infrastructure within **Ongwediva Town**. Water and sewer reticulation works continued at Efidi Extension 13 with an investment of **N\$7 million** aimed at improving access to basic municipal services and supporting future residential and commercial development. Additional water infrastructure projects were implemented at Extension 17 and Omatando Extension 1, while refurbishment of the municipal water tower and booster pump system commenced to enhance water reliability and storage capacity. Furthermore, the installation of prepaid water systems continued as part of efforts to improve water demand management, reduce losses and strengthen revenue collection.

The provision of essential municipal services remained a priority for **Ondangwa Town Council**. Significant progress was recorded in the servicing of Extension 28 (Onguta), where water and sewer reticulation infrastructure was successfully completed, laying the foundation for future residential development and improved access to basic services. These investments contribute to improved public health, support housing development and enhance the overall quality of life of residents.

The construction of the Ondangwa Wastewater Treatment Plant at Etambo remains one of the Region's most strategic water and sanitation infrastructure projects. The project aims to replace the ageing oxidation pond system and address longstanding challenges associated with sewage overflows into surrounding oshanas, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall. During the reporting period, Government availed **N\$14 million** towards the implementation of Phase One of the project, against a total project cost estimated at **N\$224.1 million**. By the end of the reporting period, **N\$10.7 million** had been expended and Phase One had reached 95 percent completion. Key works completed included the construction of embankments and installation of palisade fencing to improve environmental protection and public safety. The project also created 45 temporary jobs, all of which were filled by local youth. Once fully completed, the facility will significantly improve sanitation services, protect public health and support sustainable urban development in Ondangwa and surrounding communities.

Significant progress was recorded in the expansion of water and sanitation infrastructure across **Oshakati Town**. Phase One of the Sewer Treatment Plant project was successfully completed at a cost of **N\$8.9 million**, strengthening wastewater management capacity and supporting future urban growth. Construction of bulk sewer infrastructure in Ompumbu Extension 2 reached 80 percent completion, while extensive sewer reticulation infrastructure was developed in Evululuko through the construction of two sewer pump stations and three sewer gravity networks. In addition, ground and elevated water reservoirs were constructed in Evululuko and Okandjenedi, while water reticulation networks continued to expand access to potable water services. Collectively, these investments are improving sanitation, public health and service delivery while laying the foundation for future residential and commercial development.

The Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination continued to improve access to water in rural communities through the construction and rehabilitation of local water infrastructure. During the reporting period, the Directorate commenced the construction of a **10-kilometre Shingunguma Branchline in Uuvudhiya Constituency** to extend water supply from the Oshakati-Ompale Scheme to farming communities located east of the scheme. The project is expected to improve access to reliable water supply for domestic use and agricultural activities in the area.

In addition, the Directorate invested approximately **N\$1.1 million** in the rehabilitation and upgrading of water pipelines across several communities, including Oshilungashonkoshi, Mutongolume, Ondjodjo,

Omavela, KASHUUPULWA, KANUWA-KANGWAVI and SHIGWEDHA-SHUUNDJONDJO. These interventions were undertaken to address water supply bottlenecks, improve system efficiency and enhance access to potable water for rural households.

## 4.2 Road Infrastructure Development

The Roads Authority continued to implement strategic road infrastructure projects aimed at improving connectivity, mobility and access to economic opportunities within Oshana Region. Significant progress was recorded on the construction of the **DR4103 Okatana–Amutanga–Omulathitu–Onanime Road** in Okatana Constituency. As of May 2026, the project had reached **62.15 percent completion**, with major milestones achieved including the completion of site establishment, road setting out, accommodation of traffic, clearing and grubbing, cable duct installation and roadbed preparation. Earthworks had reached **85 percent completion**, while culvert installation stood at **90 percent completion**, providing a strong foundation for the remaining construction activities.

The project continues to contribute to local economic development through the employment of local residents and engagement of local service providers. Upon completion, the road is expected to significantly improve access to social services, facilitate agricultural production and trade, enhance mobility for surrounding communities and strengthen economic integration within the Region. The project forms part of Government's broader commitment to expanding and upgrading transport infrastructure as a catalyst for regional development and improved service delivery.

Progress was recorded on the upgrading of the **DR3607 Oshakati–Ompundja Road (Phase 1A)** to Low Volume Seal Standard, a strategic road project aimed at improving connectivity between Oshakati and surrounding communities. The project forms part of the Roads Authority's Regional Road Master Plan and seeks to enhance mobility, reduce travel time, lower vehicle operating costs and improve road safety. The initial phase covers approximately **5 kilometres** of road upgrading, with a contract value of **N\$29.9 million**, while the total estimated cost for the full 15.5-kilometre section is **N\$172.8 million**. Funding for the project is being provided through the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Road Fund Administration.

During the reporting period, both the contractor and consultant were fully mobilised and construction activities commenced. Progress was recorded in the opening and preparation of borrow pits, with layerworks activities reaching approximately **33 percent completion**. Upon completion, the road will improve regional connectivity, provide an alternative route into and out of Oshakati, facilitate trade and agricultural activities,

reduce transport costs and contribute to the socio-economic development of the Region. The project is also expected to create employment opportunities for more than **40 workers**, comprising both skilled and unskilled labour, while supporting local SMEs through subcontracting opportunities valued at approximately **N\$7.45 million**.

The Roads Authority continued to invest in the construction, upgrading and maintenance of strategic road infrastructure across Oshana Region. During the reporting period, the upgrading of the **DR3605** road from Oluno to Uukwiyushona to Low Volume Seal Standard reached 99 percent completion, with an investment of approximately **N\$28.1 million**. The project is improving accessibility, reducing vehicle operating costs and enhancing connectivity between communities within the Region. In addition, routine maintenance activities continued across the regional road network, including the blading of gravel roads, bitumen maintenance on key routes linking Ondangwa, Oshakati and Onampila, culvert construction and sand removal operations. Collectively, these maintenance interventions represented an investment of approximately **N\$39.7 million**, of which **N\$36.7 million** had been expended by the end of the reporting period.

The Roads Authority in Consultation with the Regional leadership has identified the following roads as the **Top 9 Priority Roads for Oshana Region** under the Regional Roads Master Plan requiring Construction and/or upgrading to bitumen standard or low volume seal at an estimated cost of approximately **N\$2.1 billion**.

Rank	Road No.	Route Description	Length (km)	Estimated Cost (N\$)
1	DR3636	Okapya – Onakamwandi	21	105,000,000
2	DR3607	Oshakati - Ompundja – Naruvanda Gate	76	380,000,000
3	DR3678	Oponona – Ondjungulume	33	165,000,000
4	DR4111	Uukwangula – Engombe	42	210,000,000
5	DR3644	Eheke – Ompundja	14	70,000,000
6	DR3643	Onamutuku– Onkani	94	470,000,000
7	DR3605	Oluno – Uukwiyushona - Naruvanda Gate	94	470,000,000
8	DR4105	From DR3607 at Ompundja – DR3643 at Eendjati	29	145,000,000
9	DR3683	Uukwiyushona Combined School – to DR3607 at Enguwantale	13	65,000,000

**Ongwediva Town Council** continued to invest in strategic road and stormwater infrastructure aimed at improving urban mobility, reducing congestion and enhancing road safety. During the reporting period, the

redesign and upgrading of the intersections between Mandume Ndemufayo Road and Dr. Libertine Amathila Street, as well as the Main Road (MR92), progressed at a combined investment value of approximately **N\$18.5 million**. In addition, the upgrading of Abraham Nyambali Street from gravel to bitumen standard commenced at a cost of approximately **N\$7.8 million**, while the construction of stormwater infrastructure at Extension 11, valued at approximately **N\$4.2 million**, advanced in support of climate resilience and flood mitigation efforts. These investments are improving traffic flow, enhancing road safety, reducing flood risks and supporting the continued growth and economic development of Ongwediva as a key commercial and administrative centre within the Region.

During the period under review, **Oshana Regional Council** continued to invest in small-scale infrastructure projects aimed at improving rural accessibility and connectivity. A crossing bridge at Onamambili Village was successfully completed and is now being utilised by the community. The bridge has improved year-round access to schools, health facilities, markets and other essential services, particularly during periods of flooding when many rural communities become isolated. The project also contributes to increased economic activity by facilitating the movement of agricultural produce and goods to local markets.

**Ondangwa Town Council** continued to invest in road infrastructure aimed at improving mobility, connectivity and service delivery within urban and peri-urban areas. During the reporting period, approximately **N\$4 million** was invested in the construction and upgrading of gravel roads in informal settlements, including Uupopo, Omahenene, Omashaka, Okangwena and Omakulukuma. These interventions are improving accessibility, facilitating economic activity and supporting the gradual formalisation of informal settlements. Council adopted a cost-effective approach by engaging local suppliers to provide gravel while utilising municipal equipment for road construction and upgrading, thereby promoting local economic participation, creating employment opportunities and reducing project implementation costs. The improved road network is expected to enhance access to residential areas, businesses and public services while supporting future urban development within the town.

**Oshakati Town Council** continued to invest in road and stormwater infrastructure aimed at improving mobility, accessibility and urban development. During the reporting period, **N\$2 million** was allocated towards the construction of roads and stormwater infrastructure in Oshakati Extension 16, with the project reaching 85 percent completion. The project is improving access to newly developed erven while reducing flooding risks in the area. In addition, **N\$2.19 million** was invested in the upgrading of roads in Oshakati

Extension 3 and the Natis area to bitumen standards, while approximately **N\$1.7 million** was spent on the construction of stormwater channels in Ehenye, Ekuku and Extension 3 to improve drainage and mitigate flood impacts. These investments have strengthened transportation networks, enhanced climate resilience and created an enabling environment for economic growth, land development and improved service delivery within the town. project also created temporary employment opportunities and contributed to local economic activity

### **4.3 Electricity Infrastructure Expansion**

During the period under review, significant progress was made in expanding access to electricity in Oshana Region through the implementation of rural and peri-urban electrification projects. The **Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy**, in collaboration with **NamPower** and **Oshakati Premier Electric**, continued the electrification of Evululuko Extension 14 in Oshakati East. The project, valued at **N\$15.6 million**, aims to provide electricity to approximately 420 households and forms part of Government's commitment to improving living standards and extending access to essential services. By the end of the reporting period, Medium Voltage (MV) and Low Voltage (LV) reticulation works had been completed and commissioned, including the energisation of transformer stations and the activation of high-mast lighting infrastructure. Household service connections are expected to be completed before November 2026.

The project has already generated temporary employment opportunities for twelve young people and is expected to contribute significantly to local economic development by improving access to reliable electricity, supporting small business growth, enhancing community safety and creating an enabling environment for future investment. Reliable access to electricity remains a critical catalyst for economic growth, industrial development and improved service delivery across the region.

Efforts to expand access to electricity in rural areas continued through the electrification of business centres and localities across Oshana Region. During the reporting period, **Oshana Regional Council** funded the electrification of Okadoolopa Business Centre, Uutundu Locality, Ongolomwena Location, Limbandungila Locality and Ohati Cuca Shops. The project is expected to stimulate local economic development by enabling the establishment and expansion of rural enterprises, extending business operating hours and improving access to digital services and communication technologies. Electrification also enhances educational outcomes and improves access to essential public services.

Beyond household electrification projects implemented through various partners, **NORED** continued to strengthen electricity distribution infrastructure and network reliability within Oshana Region. During the reporting period, NORED invested approximately **N\$6.5 million** in the implementation of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. The system enables real-time monitoring, control and protection of the electricity network, resulting in faster fault detection, improved response times and enhanced reliability of electricity supply to consumers. This investment contributes to improved service delivery and supports economic activities that depend on stable and efficient electricity services.

NORED also continued to support public safety and service delivery through investments in public lighting infrastructure across Oshana Region. During the reporting period, high-mast lights were installed in Ongwediva and Ondangwa at a combined cost of approximately **N\$1.77 million**, improving visibility, public safety and security in public spaces. In addition, NORED funded streetlight electricity consumption amounting to approximately **N\$600,544** during the year under review, contributing to safer urban environments and improved quality of life for residents.

During the reporting period, Oshakati Premier Electric (OPE) commenced the construction of a **5MWp Solar Plant** through its subsidiary, Premier Energy (Pty) Ltd, at an estimated cost of **N\$130 million**. The project reached approximately **80 percent completion** by the end of the reporting period, with commercial operations expected to commence in September 2026. Once operational, the plant will contribute to energy security, increase local electricity generation capacity and support efforts to diversify energy sources within the Region. The project created **169 temporary employment opportunities**, including **39 local residents**, thereby contributing to local economic development and skills transfer.

Progress was also recorded in the electrification of industrial infrastructure through the **Othingo South Electrification Project**, which aims to provide electricity to **25 industrial erven** within the Othingo Industrial Area. The project, valued at approximately **N\$7.3 million**, reached **60 percent completion** during the reporting period and is expected to enhance industrial development and attract investment upon completion. The project generated **30 temporary employment opportunities** during construction.

Furthermore, OPE continued to expand access to electricity through its **Free Service Connections Programme**, which provides free electricity connections to low-income households in peri-urban communities. Since the inception of the programme, a total of **2,903 households** have been connected to the electricity grid, while **72 temporary employment opportunities** were created during the reporting period

through the engagement of casual labourers to support connection activities. These interventions contribute significantly to improved access to energy, enhanced living conditions and inclusive socio-economic development.

#### 4.4 Health Infrastructure Development

Significant progress was recorded in strengthening health infrastructure across Oshana Region during the reporting period. The Ministry of Health and Social Services successfully completed and inaugurated the Oshana Regional Management Team Office Building at a cost of approximately **N\$18.1 million**, thereby enhancing administrative coordination and oversight of health services within the region. In addition, the Ompundja Prefabricated Clinic in Oshakati East Constituency was completed and inaugurated at a cost of **N\$4.2 million**, bringing healthcare services closer to communities. The Region also commenced major renovation works at Eheke Clinic aimed at improving the quality of healthcare infrastructure and enhancing service delivery to surrounding communities. These investments demonstrate Government's continued commitment to expanding access to quality healthcare services and improving public health outcomes.

*Table: Health Sector Projects*

Capital Projects/ Program Name	Constituency	Total Budget N\$	Total expenditure (N\$) so far	Implementation status/ Stage (%)
<b>Construction and renovation of Oshana Regional Management Team Office</b>	Oshakati East	18, 138 184.59	18, 138184.59	100% completed
<b>Construction of Ompundya PHC Clinic</b>	Oshakati East	4,233 752. 60	4, 233 752.60	100% completed
<b>Major renovation of Eheke clinic</b>	Ondangwa Rural	2, 542 968.89	1,014 592.82	95%
<b>Construction of new ICU</b>	Oshakati East	35, 000 000.00	35, 000 000.00	100%
<b>Renovation of Anton Lubowski flats</b>	Oshakati East	1, 300 000.00	900 000.00	85%
<b>Renovation of ward 1 (private ward)</b>	Oshakati East	15, 000 000.00	7, 000 000.00	65%

### ***Ondangwa District Hospital***

The Ondangwa District Hospital project recorded significant progress during the reporting period, marking an important milestone towards the realization of one of Oshana Region's most strategic health infrastructure priorities. The proposed hospital will be funded through the African Development Bank (AfDB) financing arrangement in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises and the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

During the year under review, the main feasibility study for the project was successfully completed, while the socio-economic impact assessment required by the African Development Bank as part of the financial appraisal process reached an advanced stage of implementation. The Environmental Impact Assessment was also completed and submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism for environmental clearance.

Further progress was recorded in June 2026 when the Ministry of Finance and Public Enterprises granted approval for the appointment of consultants to undertake the next phase of the project. Following the issuance of award letters, consultants were engaged to commence with the preparation of detailed designs, technical specifications and implementation timelines. These activities represent a critical step towards the completion of the project's preparatory phase and the eventual procurement of construction services.

The progress achieved demonstrates Government's commitment to addressing the growing demand for healthcare services within the Region. Once completed, the Ondangwa District Hospital will significantly enhance healthcare service delivery, improve access to specialised medical services, reduce pressure on Oshakati Intermediate Hospital and strengthen the overall healthcare system serving Oshana and neighbouring regions. The project is now advancing towards the finalisation of design and statutory approval processes, after which procurement and phased construction implementation will commence.

### **4.5 Education Infrastructure**

The Government continued to invest significantly in education infrastructure across Oshana Region to improve access to quality education and address classroom shortages. During the reporting period, the Directorate of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sport, Arts and Culture managed development projects valued at approximately **N\$32 million**, comprising projects funded through both Head Office and Regional Office allocations. The projects focused on the construction of classrooms, pre-primary facilities, science laboratories, computer laboratories, libraries, administration blocks, sanitation facilities and the renovation of existing school infrastructure across multiple constituencies. Contractors have been appointed and are on site for all approved projects, with several projects reaching advanced stages of completion

Significant progress was recorded at Onaushe Combined School in Uuvudhiya Constituency, where a **N\$6.4 million** project involving the construction of classrooms, pre-primary facilities, science laboratories, a computer laboratory, library, administration offices and ablution facilities reached 80 percent completion. Similarly, the **N\$6.1 million** infrastructure expansion project at Erundu Secondary School in Oshakati East Constituency reached 90 percent completion and will significantly strengthen teaching and learning facilities once completed.

The Directorate also prioritised early childhood development through the construction of pre-primary classrooms at Olukolo Primary School, Akuniihole Primary School, Ehangano Primary School, Onamutai Primary School and Okatana Primary School. These projects, valued at approximately **N\$5.5 million**, are expected to improve access to foundational learning and support Government's objective of strengthening early childhood education.

In addition, new classroom blocks and supporting facilities are under construction at Peter Nanyemba Primary School, Ondiyala Primary School, Onamayongo Junior Primary School, Nengushe Secondary School, Mulongeni Junior Primary School, Ekuku Primary School and Engombe Primary School. These investments are aimed at reducing overcrowding, improving learning environments and expanding educational opportunities across the Region.

The Directorate continued to improve existing education facilities through the renovation and upgrading of school infrastructure. During the reporting period, renovation projects valued at more than **N\$7.3 million** were implemented at Iihenda Secondary School, Omaalala Primary School and Ontinda Combined School. These projects included the renovation of classroom blocks, electrification works and general infrastructure upgrades aimed at creating safer, more conducive learning environments for both learners and teachers. The renovation of four classroom blocks at Iihenda Secondary School reached 97 percent completion, while the renovation and electrification project at Ontinda Combined School reached 95 percent completion.

To improve institutional sustainability and reduce operational costs, Valombola Vocational Training Centre completed the installation of a 50-kilowatt hybrid solar power system at the Oshakati Guest Hotel Training Facility. The project, implemented at a cost of approximately **N\$1.8 million**, was completed during the reporting period and has resulted in a reduction of approximately 70 percent in electricity costs at the facility.

The project contributes to environmental sustainability while improving the financial sustainability of the training institution.

#### **4.6 Constituency Sport Stadium**

The Government continued to prioritise investment in sports infrastructure as part of its commitment to youth development, community wellness and social cohesion. During the reporting period, the long-awaited Constituency Sports Facilities Programme gained momentum, with a budget allocation of **N\$10 million per constituency sports facility** approved for implementation.

In Oshana Region, the first phase of the programme is being rolled out in **Eheke (Ondangwa Rural Constituency)** and **Onamutai (Ongwediva Constituency)**. Preparatory activities, including the Bills of Quantities (BOQ) and procurement processes, reached advanced stages during the reporting period, paving the way for the commencement of construction works.

A key feature of the programme is the deliberate inclusion of local and regional Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in project implementation. Through a transparent procurement process, construction works will be undertaken by local contractors, thereby creating employment opportunities, stimulating local economic activity and promoting skills development within the Region. The facilities are expected to provide modern sporting infrastructure that will support talent development, recreational activities and community engagement, while contributing to broader Government efforts aimed at empowering young people and strengthening social development.

Once completed, the constituency sports facilities will provide accessible sporting spaces for communities, enhance youth participation in sports and recreation, and contribute to the identification and development of future sporting talent within Oshana Region.

#### **4.7 Environmental and Tourism Infrastructure**

The Environment and Tourism sector received approximately **N\$18.5 million** for conservation and tourism infrastructure development. Significant achievements included the procurement of fencing materials for protected areas valued at **N\$1.5 million**, the upgrading of the 220-kilometre Okaukuejo-King Nehale road corridor within Etosha National Park at a cost of N\$13.4 million, and the rehabilitation of the Forestry Research Station at Iiheke which was completed at a cost of **N\$498,000**. These projects contribute to

biodiversity conservation, improved tourism accessibility, protection of wildlife resources and enhancement of research facilities supporting sustainable environmental management.

***Project progress photos***

**1. Upgrading of 220km gravel road, Okaukuejo-Halali Detour- Namutoni, Etosha National Park**



***Photo 1: Section 1: 0-20km Okaukuejo – Halali: Bitumen Primed section (approx. km 0+560)***



***Photo 2: Section 1: 20-40 km Okaukuejo-Halali: Completed Roadbed (Final Fill) layer (approx..km28+920)***

## 2. Renovation of Forestry Research Station at Iiheke, Oshana Region



*Picture 3: facelift of forestry Iiheke office*

### 4.8 Justice, Safety and Security Infrastructure

The Justice, Home Affairs and Security sectors continued to invest in facilities aimed at strengthening governance, law enforcement and public safety. The rehabilitation of the Oshakati Military Base received **N\$10 million** and recorded expenditure of **N\$6.76 million**. Renovation of the Ombudsman’s Office in Ongwediva was completed at a cost of **N\$71,000**. The renovation and reinforcement of Oluno Correctional Facility Cells received **N\$27 million**, with Phase One completed and seven cell roofs successfully reinforced. These interventions improve institutional capacity, strengthen security infrastructure, enhance human rights protection and contribute to maintaining peace and stability within the region.

## 5 Human Capital Development

Human Capital Development remains a cornerstone of Namibia’s socio-economic transformation and a key driver of sustainable development. Recognizing that a skilled, healthy and productive population is essential for economic growth and national competitiveness, Government continues to invest in education, healthcare, skills development and innovation to build a capable workforce equipped to meet the demands of a modern economy.

### 5.1 Primary and Secondary Education Support

The Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture continued implementing curriculum support programmes, learner performance monitoring, and professional development activities to improve educational outcomes. School support visits, academic monitoring, and targeted interventions were carried out to strengthen teaching and learning, with a particular focus on underperforming subjects such as Mathematics, Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry, English, and History.

To address these challenges, the Directorate introduced several support measures, including quarterly mastery tests, teacher training on subject content and teaching methods, advisory support from subject specialists, and guidance on curriculum delivery. These interventions aimed to improve classroom teaching methods, ensure full curriculum coverage, enhance learner performance and examination results, and strengthen overall education quality in the region. Efforts were guided by school performance data and targeted at schools and subjects most in need of support.

## 5.2 High Education, Technical, Vocational Training and Skills Development

In support of national objectives, Oshana Region continues to position itself as a leading centre for education and skills development in northern Namibia. The Region hosts a number of higher learning and vocational training institutions offering programmes in business and management, education, health sciences, engineering, information technology and other critical fields. These institutions play a vital role in developing the human capital required to drive regional and national development.

As of the end of the 2025/26 financial year, tertiary and vocational training institutions operating within the Region collectively produced a total of 3,010 (three thousand and ten) graduates, contributing significantly to the pool of skilled professionals and enhancing opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship and innovation.

No.	Institution	No. of Graduates
1.	UNAM – José Eduardo dos Santos Engineering Campus	106
2.	UNAM – Hifikepunye Pohamba Campus	531
3.	UNAM – Oshakati Campus	162
4.	IUM – Ongwediva Campus	1,618

5.	I-Care Health Institute	368
6.	Valombola Vocational Training Centre (VVTC)	225

### 5.3 Life Long Learning & Enhanced Demographic Dividends

The region has strengthened human capital development by promoting lifelong learning through community learning centres and non-formal education programmes, giving people opportunities to improve literacy, numeracy, and vocational skills for social and economic participation.

- *Youth Development*

**Youth empowerment initiatives continued** to provide opportunities for skills acquisition, work exposure, and participation in productive economic activities. Through partnerships with government institutions, local authorities, and the private sector, young people benefited from training, mentorship, and entrepreneurship development programmes that enhanced employability and self-reliance. Complementing these efforts, the Directorate of Sport implemented structured programmes such as the **Regional Athletics Programme**, participation in the **Region 5 Youth Games**, the **Westphalia Exchange Programme in Germany**, training of officials and teachers, and community sport activities. Together, these interventions strengthened skills, promoted inclusion, and positioned youth empowerment and sport as key drivers of human capital development and sustainable social progress in the Oshana Region.

- *Sport Development*

Oshana Region advanced human capital development through education, training, and sport initiatives that strengthened skills and opportunities. Despite challenges in aligning skills with labour market demands, investments in curriculum support, internships, and vocational education built a more skilled and productive population.

Complementing this, the Directorate of Sport implemented structured programmes that empowered youth and enhanced regional performance. Athletics engaged 500 athletes and 65 officials from 80 schools, with 55 athletes and 8 officials representing Oshana nationally, improving the Region’s ranking from 11th in 2025 to 4th in 2026. Thirty athletes qualified for the Region 5 Youth Games, contributing to Namibia’s 2nd place finish, while three gained international exposure through the Westphalia Exchange Programme in Germany.

Capacity-building included training 40 athletics technical officials and 30 teachers in football coaching, alongside community sport initiatives such as marginalized games.

Together, these interventions linked education, skills training, and sport development, creating a stronger foundation for youth empowerment, social progress, and sustainable economic growth in the Region.

- ***Cultural and Creative Industries***

The The Oshana Region made notable strides in advancing **social development** and the **cultural and creative industry** by combining structured training with vibrant cultural celebrations. More than 150 community members and 800 learners from schools such as Mwadhina Gwanembenge J.P, Shapwa PS, Oshakati PS, Oshakati West PS, Okatana SSS, and Ntuli CS were trained in music, visual arts, African performing arts, and drama, while 73 teachers enhanced their pedagogical skills through arts workshops. In addition, 67 schools established School Culture Clubs, and 40 cultural entrepreneurs received training in innovation and business diversification, directly supporting creative enterprises.

The identification of 98 heritage sites, with one prepared for national nomination, positioned the Region as a cultural tourism hub. Complementing these efforts, cultural events such as the Oshakati Totem Expo promoted unity, cultural identity, and intergenerational knowledge transfer while boosting tourism and local economic development. Traditional Authorities further reinforced cultural values and community solidarity.

Together with youth programmes in entrepreneurship, agricultural cooperatives, life skills, climate action, and crime prevention clubs, these interventions strengthened social cohesion, enhanced cultural identity, empowered young people, and created inclusive spaces for education, creativity, and community development—embedding culture and learning as pillars of sustainable social progress.

#### **5.4 Student Funding and Support towards Skill Development**

Stakeholders contributed to the development of human capital in the region by offering students scholarships, bursaries, and internships as summarized below:

<b>Institution/Donor</b>	<b>Type of Assistance</b>	<b>No. of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Financial Value (N\$)</b>
<b>Social Security Commission</b>	Scholarships: National Certificate in	20 Students	1.3 mill
	Counselling Level 3		1.8 mill

	Scholarship: Occupational Health and Safety Level 4 & 5	15 Students	2 mill
	Scholarship: Wholesale & Retail	15 Student	
<b>Rani Trading</b>	Tertiary Student Registration Fees	11 Students	140,000.00
<b>Oshana Regional Council</b>	Student Interns	14 Interns	85,294
<b>Oshakati Town Council</b>	Student Internships	15 Interns	180,000.00
	Apprenticeship	20 Young People	3.2 mill
<b>Ongwediva Town Council</b>	Student Interns	16 Interns (3 months)	160,000
	Graduate Interns	3 Interns (12 months)	126,000
<b>Ondangwa Town Council</b>	Student Internships	20	185,563.95
	Volunteers	6	56,400
	Apprenticeship	7	245,000
<b>NORED</b>	2 Bursaries in Electrical Engineering	2 Students (1 Completed)	310,767.00
	Student Internships	26 Interns	144,600

These initiatives are critical in addressing youth unemployment and ensuring that skills development aligns with market needs.

**Valombola Vocational Training Centre** continued to play a critical role in developing technical and vocational skills within Oshana Region. During the reporting period, the Centre expanded access to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) through the introduction and accreditation of new programmes in Information and Communication Technology, Water Supply and Sanitation, Facility Maintenance, Joinery and Cabinet Making, Metal Fabrication, Plumbing and Pipe Fitting, Hospitality and Tourism, and Office Administration. These programmes contribute towards building a skilled workforce capable of supporting the Region's industrial, construction, service and technology sectors.

The Centre further strengthened industry partnerships to enhance work-integrated learning and apprenticeship opportunities. Through collaborations with institutions such as Oshakati Town Council, Ondangwa Town Council, Pupkewitz Motors Holdings, Niingo Steel, Okahao Town Council and Star Tannery, a total of **42 apprentices** were placed in workplace training programmes, providing practical industry exposure and improving employment readiness among trainees.

In addition, the Centre implemented various short courses benefiting employees from Government institutions, local authorities and public entities. Training was provided in facility maintenance, electrical

systems and air-conditioning systems, benefiting more than **100 participants** from organisations including UNAM, Oshikoto Regional Council, Oshakati State Hospital, the Ministry of Works and Transport, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, and Tsandi Village Council. These interventions contributed to continuous professional development and workforce capacity enhancement.

The Centre continued to support youth empowerment through vocational training, apprenticeship placements and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programmes. During the reporting period, the institution received **284 RPL applications**, creating opportunities for experienced individuals to obtain formal recognition of their skills and improve their employability. Furthermore, trainees from the Centre continued to excel nationally, with Valombola Vocational Training Centre winning multiple medals at the 4th National Skills Competition, including two gold medals, one silver medal, four bronze medals and the Presidential Award in Bricklaying and Plastering. These achievements demonstrate the growing quality and competitiveness of vocational training within the Region.

## **6 SOCIAL PROGRESSION**

Overall, infrastructure development during the 2025/2026 financial year continued to improve service delivery, stimulate economic activities, strengthen public institutions and enhance the quality of life of residents. While several projects experienced implementation delays due to procurement processes, budget constraints and reporting challenges, the investments made during the year laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and future economic growth in the Oshana Region.

### **6.1 SOCIAL PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

The Oshana Region continued to make significant progress in promoting social welfare, community well-being and inclusive development during the 2025/2026 financial year. Government remained committed to improving the living conditions of vulnerable households through targeted social protection programmes, food security interventions, community empowerment initiatives, health services, gender equality programmes and support to marginalized groups. These interventions were aimed at ensuring that

development benefits reach all segments of society, particularly women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and low-income households.

During the reporting period, the division rural service advanced **social progression** through targeted interventions that directly improved livelihoods and community well-being. Under the **Food Security** programme, **N\$160,400** was allocated (own funding from the Regional Council), with **N\$152,480** expended to cultivate crop fields, creating 180 jobs and strengthening household resilience. In addition, the **Cash/Food for Work and Micro-Finance** initiative received **N\$709,648**, of which **N\$672,200** was spent to financially and technically support 427 projects. These interventions not only enhanced food security and income generation but also promoted dignity, inclusion, and sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable households across the Region.

The Oshana Regional Council further continued to implement Minor Capital Projects aimed at improving community infrastructure and service delivery. During the reporting period, eleven projects valued at approximately **N\$2.17 million** were implemented across the region. Notable achievements included the completion of community shade structures, the construction of a crossing bridge at Onamambili Village and the electrification of selected rural business centres and localities. These projects demonstrate Government's commitment to improving living conditions and expanding access to essential services in rural communities.

On a **Disaster Risk Management**, the region continued to experience the effects of recurring drought conditions and climate variability, which adversely affected household food security and agricultural production. In response, Government implemented extensive drought relief programmes through the Office of the Prime Minister and various sector ministries. During the period under review, approximately 21,659 food-insecure households benefited from drought relief food assistance across the region. In addition, the Oshana Regional Council supplemented national interventions through food assistance programmes valued at approximately **N\$991,774.78**, while 554 marginalized households received monthly food support. These interventions played a critical role in reducing vulnerability and protecting households from the adverse effects of food insecurity.

**Social protection programmes** continued to provide a vital safety net for vulnerable members of society. During the reporting period, approximately 33,026 children benefited from child welfare grants amounting to over **N\$12.8 million**. Furthermore, Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres received subsidies

totaling approximately **N\$3.7 million** to support the provision of quality early learning services. These investments contribute significantly to child welfare, improved nutrition, school readiness and long-term human development outcomes.

**Women empowering programs** were implemented to support vulnerable households and strengthening community resilience. A major milestone during the reporting period was the completion and operationalization of the Ongwediva Community Empowerment Centre. The project received an allocation of **N\$2.4 million**, with expenditure amounting to **N\$2.04 million** by the end of the reporting period. The facility has already been handed over and is currently in use. The center is expected to serve as a hub for skills development, entrepreneurship training, community empowerment programmes and support services targeting women, youth and vulnerable groups.

**On gender equality, social inclusion and the protection** the Region continue to support vulnerable groups through various awareness campaigns, community outreach programmes and institutional support mechanisms. Government institutions and civil society organisations collaborated in addressing issues such as gender-based violence, child protection, substance abuse and social exclusion. These efforts were complemented by community education programmes aimed at promoting responsible citizenship, family cohesion and social harmony.

## **6.2 LAND DELIVERY AND HOUSING**

- **Communal Land Administration**

The Directorate of Lands continued to strengthen land administration and tenure security across Oshana Region through the implementation of communal land registration activities. During the reporting period, a total of **924 customary land rights** were registered against a target of 989 registrations, representing an achievement rate of approximately 93 percent. In addition, **584 customary land rights certificates** were issued through the Traditional Authorities, while **74 awareness meetings** were conducted to improve public understanding of communal land administration processes. The Directorate further mapped **1,255 land right applications**, entered **1,461 applications** into the Namibia Communal Land Administration System (NCLAS), and digitised **1,068 applications**, contributing to improved efficiency, transparency and security of land tenure within the Region.

- **Flexible Land Tenure System**

The implementation of the Flexible Land Tenure System (FLTS) continued to provide affordable and secure land ownership opportunities for residents of informal settlements. In Oshakati's Onawa Informal Settlement, feasibility studies were completed on a project area measuring approximately **42.8 hectares**, while seven (7) block erven were surveyed and registered under four schemes, namely Killian Sheehama, Dr. Hage Geingob, Nalitungwe and Omugongo. To date, the system is fully operational in three blocks comprising **402 residential plots**, and a total of **212 Landhold Titles** have been issued to beneficiaries. The project continues to play a significant role in strengthening tenure security, promoting orderly urban development and supporting Government's objective of improving access to land and housing for low-income households.

- **Regional Planning and Land Use Management**

The Directorate of Lands continued to support sustainable spatial planning and land management through the Integrated Regional Land Use Planning Programme. During the reporting period, preparations continued towards the formal handover and implementation of the Oshana Integrated Regional Land Use Plan (IRLUP), which will serve as a strategic framework for guiding land use, infrastructure development, environmental management and future settlement planning within the Region. Once fully implemented, the IRLUP is expected to strengthen coordinated development planning and improve the management of land resources across Oshana Region.

*A total of 1,177 plots have been allocated in the municipal areas of the region under the year under review.*

*Allocation was made as follow:*

No	Town Council	No. of plots allocated	Allocated to
1.	Ongwediva Town Council	87	Shack Dwellers Federation
		62	Schmidtco Properties (Servicing and Construction of Houses)
		18	SME Property Developers
		260	NHE, for middle-income earners
2.	Oshakati Town Council	149	Relocation of affected flood Victims from Oshoopala Location
		37	Local SME Contractors, for construction of middle income housing units

		36	Individuals (beneficiaries from the waiting list)
3.	Ondangwa Town Council	186	Shack Dwellers' Federation
		44	Individuals from informal waiting list
		298	Development Workshop Namibia
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1177</b>	

The **Oshana Regional Council** Leadership, in collaboration with the Traditional Authorities and local communities, has undertaken a strategic initiative aimed at accelerating rural development and improving the delivery of essential public services. As part of this effort, a consultative and community-driven approach was adopted to identify and assess promising locations with significant development potential. These areas have been earmarked for regional declaration as Growth Points, and ultimately groomed and declared as Settlement Areas - serving as focal centers for public service provision, housing development, and the promotion of local economic activities. The initiative seeks to stimulate inclusive socio-economic growth, enhance access to government services, create economic opportunities, and strengthen the development of sustainable rural settlements across the constituencies. **The grooming and preparation process of the identified Growth Points into Settlement Areas status will follow the below particular order:**

	Constituency	Growth Point
<b>1</b>	Uuvudhiya	Engombe
<b>2</b>	Uukwiyuushona	Uukwiyu Proper
<b>3</b>	Ompundja	Enguwantale
<b>4</b>	Oshakati West	Okaukamasheshe
<b>5</b>	Okatjali	Okatjali Proper
<b>6</b>	Oshakati East	Ompundja Proper
<b>7</b>	Okaku	Onengushe
<b>8</b>	Ongwediva	Onamutai

### **6.3 Social Welfare Programs**

The provision of basic sanitation remained an important intervention in improving public health, environmental conditions and the quality of life in rural communities. Through the Rural Sanitation Programme, the Oshana Regional Council continued the construction of Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) toilets across all eleven constituencies. During the reporting period, the programme received an allocation of

approximately **N\$2.4 million**, of which **N\$2.3 million** was expended, resulting in the completion of **128 sanitation facilities**. The initiative significantly improved access to safe sanitation, reduced health and environmental risks associated with open defecation, created temporary employment opportunities and supported local suppliers through the procurement of construction materials.

The health sector continued to play a critical role in improving the well-being of residents through disease prevention, treatment and health promotion programmes. During the reporting period, Oshana Region maintained efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria through strengthened community outreach, awareness campaigns and integrated healthcare services. While new HIV infections continue to decline, the Region recorded 604 confirmed HIV cases, highlighting the continued need for prevention, testing and treatment interventions. Tuberculosis remains a public health concern, with 311 cases reported, translating to an incidence rate of 131 cases per 100,000 population. Drug-resistant tuberculosis also remains a challenge requiring sustained interventions.

The Region continued to strengthen immunisation programmes and successfully conducted Round 1 and Round 2 of the Polio Type 2 vaccination campaign, achieving coverage rates above 80 percent in both rounds. These achievements reflect the commitment of health workers and communities towards preventing vaccine-preventable diseases and improving child health outcomes. Furthermore, malaria surveillance and prevention measures remained active throughout the reporting period, while Indoor Residual Spraying campaigns targeted 132 villages and 149,619 structures, successfully spraying 78,845 structures and achieving coverage of 53 percent.

The growing burden of non-communicable diseases continues to place pressure on health services. During the reporting period, 4,003 new cases of hypertension and 437 new cases of diabetes mellitus were recorded. In addition, the Region experienced outbreaks of measles, mumps and malaria, placing additional strain on already stretched healthcare resources and reinforcing the need for continued investment in preventative healthcare and health promotion initiatives.

To strengthen human resources for health, a total of 108 staff members were recruited during the year under review. These included medical doctors, registered nurses, enrolled nurses, pharmacists, emergency care practitioners and social workers, contributing to improved healthcare delivery and service accessibility across the region.

#### **6.4 Governor's Initiatives**

In addition to the various Government programmes implemented through Offices, Ministries and Agencies, the Office of the Governor continued to undertake targeted interventions aimed at addressing the immediate socio-economic needs of vulnerable communities while promoting sustainable development across the Region. During the reporting period, a total of **N\$500,000** was mobilised and utilised to support community development initiatives, agricultural projects, educational assistance, shelter programmes and interventions targeting vulnerable groups. These initiatives demonstrate the Governor's commitment to responsive leadership, social inclusion, poverty alleviation, youth empowerment and community resilience, while complementing broader Government development efforts within Oshana Region.

- **Okatyali Project**

The Okatyali Agricultural Project remains one of the flagship initiatives of the Office of the Governor aimed at promoting youth employment, food security and agricultural development within Oshana Region. The project is being established on an 8-hectare parcel of community land in Okatyali Constituency and focuses on the production of vegetables, including cabbages, tomatoes, spinach, carrots and green peppers through modern and climate-smart farming methods. The initiative is expected to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for young people while contributing to local food production and household nutrition.

Significant progress was recorded during the reporting period. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform successfully facilitated the installation of a water connection to the project site, providing a critical foundation for agricultural production. In addition, land preparation and soil cultivation activities were completed, positioning the project for the commencement of large-scale crop production. The Office of the Governor continued to mobilise resources and strategic partnerships to support the implementation of the project, with partial funding arrangements currently being finalised through the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) and other development partners.

Once fully operational, the project is expected to create approximately **15 permanent employment opportunities** and **50 seasonal jobs**, while providing practical agricultural skills, entrepreneurship opportunities and income-generating activities for young people. The project forms part of the Governor's broader vision of leveraging agriculture as a catalyst for economic empowerment, poverty reduction and sustainable rural development in Oshana Region.

- **Tulongeni Pamwe Agricultural Project**

In line with the Governor's commitment to strengthening food security and promoting community self-reliance, the Office of the Governor supported the revitalisation of the Tulongeni Pamwe Agricultural Project in Okatjali Constituency. The project received agricultural inputs and materials, including poles, cement, shade nets and fencing materials to improve production capacity and support sustainable agricultural activities. The intervention aimed to enhance local food production, improve livelihoods and promote community participation in agriculture.



*Photo: Official handing over of items and visit to Tulongeni Pamwe Agricultural Project*

- **Etambo Community Shade**

Following a request by the Headman of **Etambo Village**, the Office of the Regional Governor supported the completion of the community hall shade structure. Assistance included the provision of **60 IBR iron zinc sheets, 100 tek screws with washers, and four ridges.**



- **Youth Empowerment: Catroew Poultry Project**

Mr. Onesmus, a young entrepreneur from **Okandjenedi, Oshakati**, together with four other youths, operates a poultry farming project. Despite notable progress and access to land, the group faced challenges relating to poultry feed, medication, and equipment. Recognising the project’s growth potential, the Office of the Regional Governor procured items valued at **N\$ 71,823.20** which was formally donated to **Catroew Poultry**.



*Photos: Official Handover of items to Catroew Poultry Project*

- **Disability Project**

The Office of the Governor continued to champion the economic empowerment and social inclusion of persons with disabilities through strategic partnerships and stakeholder mobilisation. During the reporting period, the Regional Governor mobilised sponsorships, construction materials, agricultural

inputs and technical support from various Government institutions, development partners and private sector stakeholders to support the establishment and operationalisation of the Disability Agricultural Project.

The project, spearheaded by the Oshana Regional Leadership of the National Federation of People with Disabilities in Namibia (NFPDN), focuses on integrated agricultural production activities aimed at generating income and improving food security among persons with disabilities. Key activities undertaken at the project include poultry farming, vegetable production, seedling cultivation and greenhouse farming. These activities are designed to provide sustainable employment opportunities, enhance agricultural skills and promote self-reliance among beneficiaries while contributing to local food production within the Region.

The initiative seeks to promote employment creation, food security and economic participation among persons with disabilities while demonstrating the Region's commitment to inclusive development. Once fully operational, the project is expected to enhance self-reliance among beneficiaries, improve household incomes and serve as a model for disability-led community development initiatives within the Region.



*Photo: Handing over of Materials by various stakeholders to the Agricultural Project for people living with Disability*

- **Community Shelter**

The Office of the Governor implemented a Community Shelter Programme aimed at assisting vulnerable households affected by poverty, natural disasters and other socio-economic challenges. During the reporting period, an amount of **N\$394,434.60** was invested in shelter and humanitarian

support interventions across the Region. Through the Governor's Shelter Initiative, a total of **26 fully structured corrugated iron rooms** were provided to vulnerable households in Oshakati East (3), Ondangwa Rural (3), Uukwiyuushona (3), Okatana (3), Uuvudhiya (3), Okaku (3), Ongwediva (5) and Ompundja (3) constituencies. Each structure comprised essential building materials, including poles, corrugated iron sheets, cement, doors, locks, timber, concrete stones and nails.

In addition, full sets of building materials were provided to **five households whose homes were destroyed by fire**, comprising two residents from Ongwediva Town and three residents from Oshakati Town, enabling them to reconstruct their homes and restore their livelihoods. The Office of the Governor further extended support to residents affected by flooding in Oshakati, particularly households permanently relocated from Ankambya Location to Onawa Location. Building materials were donated to assist these families in establishing adequate shelter following the loss of property and displacement caused by flooding. Collectively, these interventions benefited **31 households** and demonstrate Government's commitment to supporting vulnerable communities, improving living conditions and restoring dignity to affected families.





*Photos: Handing over of Shelter materials to beneficiaries*

- **Support to Schools**

Recognising the importance of education in improving the lives of young people, the Office of the Governor continued to support schools and learners through various educational assistance initiatives and stakeholder partnerships. During the reporting period, complete school uniform sets were donated to **22 learners** at Engombe Primary School in Uuvudhiya Constituency at a cost of approximately **N\$7,061**. In addition, the Office mobilised **N\$10,000 from Chicco Group**, which was used to provide school uniforms to a further **17 learners**. The Office also facilitated the donation of **107 pairs of school shoes** through the support of Rent-A-Drum. Furthermore, the Office successfully mobilised educational resources from various private sector partners and development

organizations, including **100 chairs and 100 desks from the Rössing Foundation**, **30 chairs and 30 desks from the Namibia Training Authority (NTA)**, **50 chairs from Roam Manufacturing**, and **N\$50,000 from Lüderitz Waterfront for the production and refurbishment of school furniture**. Additional support included the donation of **five laptop computers from Syntex Technologies** and a **copier/printer machine from Ningbo Agricultural Investment**. These interventions contributed significantly to improving learning conditions, enhancing learner dignity, reducing resource shortages in schools, and supporting access to quality education across the Region.



*Photo: Support to various schools in the Region*

- **Support to Intermediate Hospital Oshakati – Ward 16 (Psychiatric Ward)**

The Office received a request from Intermediate Hospital Oshakati, particularly Ward 16 (Psychiatric Ward), highlighting an urgent need for essential items to improve patient living conditions. A formal list of required items was submitted by the Medical Superintendent.

Accordingly, the office of the governor availed an amount of **N\$ 15,135.55** to procure and sponsor those items as requested.



*Photo: Official handing over of items to the Psychiatric Ward in Oshakati State Hospital*

- **Dr Frans Indongo Kinder Garten**

The Office of the Governor continued to support early childhood development and the welfare of children living with disabilities through targeted assistance to community-based educational initiatives. During the reporting period, support was extended to **Dr. Frans Indongo Kindergarten**, a 24-hour childcare facility located in Okandjengedi and operated by a community member with the assistance of volunteers. Following a visit by the Regional Governor, overcrowding and inadequate classroom space were identified as key challenges affecting the facility. To improve the learning environment and expand classroom capacity, the Office of the Governor donated **30 IBR zinc sheets, 10 bags of 50kg cement and tek screws** to support the construction of an additional shaded learning area. The intervention contributed to improving learning conditions for vulnerable children while demonstrating the Office's commitment to promoting inclusive early childhood education and community development.



*Photo: Official handing over of items to the Dr. Frans Indongo Kindergarten*

- **Funeral Assistance**

An amount of N\$ 9,700.00 also availed by the office of the Governor to assist a bereaved family following the tragic murder of a woman in the Oshana Region. The family faced financial challenges in conducting the burial. The Office of the Regional Governor intervened by covering the costs of a coffin, tombstone, flowers, and transportation.

## 7 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

### 7.1 Wildlife Conservation and Natural Resource Management

The Ipumbu ya Tshilongo Conservancy continued to contribute to sustainable natural resource management and community development through wildlife conservation initiatives and benefit-sharing programmes. During the 2024/2025 financial year, the conservancy generated income of approximately **N\$872,329** from regulated trophy hunting activities. As part of its benefit-sharing programme, a contribution of **N\$36,637** was made to the Uukwambi Traditional Authority in support of local development and strengthened collaboration between conservation structures and traditional leadership.

The conservancy also contributed to household food security through the distribution of game meat to communities. During the reporting period, meat from one elephant declared a problem-causing animal was distributed across the six conservancy centres and to the Uukwambi Traditional Authority, ensuring that local communities directly benefited from the sustainable utilisation of wildlife resources.

### 7.2 Human-Wildlife Conflict Management

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism continued to implement measures aimed at mitigating the impact of human-wildlife conflict on rural livelihoods. Through the Human-Wildlife Self-Reliance Scheme, compensation offsets amounting to **N\$149,950** were provided to farmers affected by wildlife-related losses within the Ipumbu ya Tshilongo Conservancy. The scheme assists communities in recovering from livestock losses and crop damage while promoting positive attitudes towards wildlife conservation. During the reporting period, one elephant and two lions were declared problem-causing animals and managed in accordance with national wildlife management policies to protect communities, livestock and property. These interventions contribute to balancing conservation objectives with the protection of livelihoods and rural economic activities.

## 8 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Oshana Region continued to strengthen its international and inter-regional partnerships during the reporting period through cooperation agreements aimed at promoting knowledge exchange, institutional collaboration and regional development. The Office of the Governor continued to coordinate engagements

with sister regions and provinces in support of Namibia's broader objectives of regional integration and international cooperation.

The longstanding partnership between Oshana Region and Limpopo Province in the Republic of South Africa remained active during the reporting period. The existing Memorandum of Understanding continued to provide a framework for cooperation, while discussions commenced on reviewing and strengthening the agreement to ensure its continued relevance to emerging development priorities.

Cooperation with Jiangxi Province of the People's Republic of China also remained in place, providing opportunities for continued engagement and collaboration between the two regions. The partnership continues to serve as a platform for strengthening relations and exploring areas of mutual interest.

Progress was recorded in efforts to formalise cooperation with the Kilimanjaro Region of the United Republic of Tanzania. Engagements towards the finalisation and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding continued during the reporting period, with both parties expressing commitment to strengthening regional cooperation.

The Region further pursued cooperation with Cunene Province in the Republic of Angola. Ongoing engagements focused on strengthening cross-border relations and exploring opportunities for collaboration based on the long-standing historical and geographical links between the two regions.

In line with the Government's renewed approach to economic diplomacy and regional engagement, the Ministry of International Relations and Trade reallocated regions to various Namibian embassies and diplomatic missions abroad. As part of this arrangement, Oshana Region was assigned to the Embassy of the Republic of Namibia in the Kingdom of Belgium. To initiate this partnership, the Office of the Governor submitted the Oshana Regional Economic Profile to the Embassy, highlighting the Region's investment opportunities, economic potential and development priorities. This engagement is expected to strengthen cooperation, enhance the Region's international visibility and support efforts to attract investment, trade opportunities and development partnerships that contribute to economic growth and job creation.

In addition to these partnerships, the Region continued engaging with development agencies, international organisations and cooperating partners that support various development initiatives within the region. These

relationships continue to complement Government efforts through technical support, knowledge sharing and institutional collaboration.

Despite the progress achieved, limited financial resources and capacity constraints continue to affect the pace at which some cooperation initiatives are translated into tangible projects and programmes. Strengthening implementation, monitoring and follow-up mechanisms will therefore remain important in maximising the benefits of existing partnerships. Going forward, the Region will continue to strengthen existing partnerships while exploring new opportunities for cooperation that contribute to regional development, economic advancement and institutional capacity building. Overall, international relations and cooperation remain important instruments for fostering collaboration, sharing experiences and creating opportunities that support the long-term development objectives of the Oshana Region.

## 9 KEY CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the significant progress achieved during the reporting period, several development challenges continue to constrain the pace of socio-economic transformation in Oshana Region. Addressing these challenges will require coordinated support from Central Government, development partners and other stakeholders.

- **Health Infrastructure and Service Delivery**

The health sector continues to face a number of operational and infrastructure challenges that affect service delivery and patient outcomes. These include periodic stock-outs of essential medicines, shortages of healthcare professionals in critical disciplines, high staff turnover and inadequate infrastructure at some health facilities. Furthermore, several health centres are not yet operating on a 24-hour basis, limiting access to healthcare services in certain communities. While progress has been recorded towards the development of the Ondangwa District Hospital, continued national support remains essential to ensure the timely implementation of this strategic project and to strengthen healthcare service delivery within the Region.

- **Road Infrastructure Development**

Although substantial investments have been made in road construction and maintenance, significant sections of the regional road network remain below the required standard. The Roads Authority has identified priority roads requiring upgrading at an estimated cost exceeding **N\$2 billion**. Accelerated investment in strategic

road infrastructure remains necessary to improve connectivity, facilitate trade, support agricultural production and enhance access to social services, particularly in rural constituencies.

- **Water, Sanitation and Bulk Infrastructure**

Increasing urbanisation and population growth continue to place pressure on existing water, sanitation and bulk service infrastructure. Several local authorities have highlighted the need for investment in wastewater treatment facilities, sewer reticulation systems, bulk water supply infrastructure and stormwater management systems. Additional support is required to expand these services and ensure that urban growth is matched by adequate infrastructure development.

- **Electricity Infrastructure Expansion**

The growing demand for electricity connections continues to place pressure on existing distribution networks. An estimated N\$150 million is required to strengthen bulk electricity infrastructure and expand network capacity to accommodate increasing residential, commercial and industrial demand. Continued investment in electricity infrastructure is critical to supporting economic growth, industrial development and improved living standards.

- **Land Servicing and Urban Development**

Demand for serviced land and housing continues to outpace available resources. High costs associated with the provision of water, sewer, electricity, roads and stormwater infrastructure continue to constrain the pace of land servicing and housing delivery. In addition, inadequate funding for the compensation of traditional homesteads affected by urban expansion and delays in land acquisition processes continue to affect township development programmes. Accelerated support for land servicing and compensation mechanisms will be required to address growing urbanisation pressures and reduce the expansion of informal settlements.

- **Youth Employment and Skills Development**

Youth unemployment remains one of the most pressing socio-economic challenges facing the Region. While several initiatives have been implemented to promote entrepreneurship, vocational training and agricultural development, the demand for employment opportunities continues to exceed available opportunities. Additional support is required for youth-focused enterprise development, agricultural projects, vocational training and labour-intensive infrastructure programmes to expand economic participation among young people.

- **Agricultural Development and Climate Resilience**

The agricultural sector continues to face challenges relating to limited access to finance, inadequate agricultural infrastructure, climate variability and recurring drought conditions. Additional support is required to strengthen climate-resilient agricultural practices, expand irrigation infrastructure, improve market access and increase support for community-based agricultural initiatives aimed at enhancing food security and rural livelihoods.

- **Project Implementation and Funding Constraints**

The implementation of development projects continues to be affected by funding limitations, procurement delays and cash-flow constraints experienced across various sectors. While regional stakeholders have demonstrated a strong commitment to implementation, delays in the execution of some nationally coordinated projects continue to affect service delivery and development outcomes. Strengthening project monitoring, expediting procurement processes and ensuring timely release of development funds will be critical in accelerating implementation and achieving national development objectives.

- **Strategic Projects Requiring National Attention**

The Region further seeks national support for the accelerated implementation of several strategic projects that have significant socio-economic importance, including:

- Ondangwa District Hospital;
- Oshakati Independence Stadium renovation;
- Dual carriageway development between Oshakati and Ondangwa;
- Construction of additional bridges in flood-prone areas;
- Expansion of bulk water and sanitation infrastructure;
- Upgrading of priority regional roads; and
- Youth employment and agricultural development initiatives.

## **10 THE YEAR AHEAD (2026/2027 PRIORITIES)**

As Oshana Region looks towards the 2026/2027 Financial Year, the focus will be on accelerating implementation, strengthening service delivery and ensuring that development interventions translate into tangible benefits for communities. Guided by the priorities of the 8th Administration, the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) and the aspirations of the people of Oshana, the Region will continue to prioritise

infrastructure development, youth employment, agricultural expansion, improved healthcare and education services, land servicing, and enhanced stakeholder collaboration. Particular emphasis will be placed on ensuring timely implementation of development projects, strengthening accountability mechanisms and mobilising partnerships that support inclusive and sustainable regional development.

For the year ahead, the Community and People of Oshana should expect:

✓ **Accelerating Infrastructure Development**

Include:

- Continued implementation of DR3607 Ompundja–Naruvanda Gate Road.
- Advancement of the Okatana–Amutanga–Onanime Road.
- Expansion of water and sanitation infrastructure.
- Strengthening of bulk electricity infrastructure.
- Completion of constituency sports facilities at Eheke and Onamutai.
- Progression of Ondangwa Sports Stadium construction.
- Advancement of Ondangwa District Hospital planning and procurement processes.

✓ **Expanding Land Servicing and Housing Delivery**

Include:

- Continued implementation of the Informal Settlement Upgrading Programme.
- Flexible Land Tenure System expansion.
- Compensation and servicing of planned townships.
- Increased land delivery through local authorities.
- Implementation of the Oshana Integrated Regional Land Use Plan.

✓ **Strengthening Human Capital Development**

Include:

- Completion of ongoing school infrastructure projects.
- Expansion of vocational and technical training programmes.
- Increased apprenticeship opportunities.
- Improved healthcare service delivery.
- Recruitment and retention of critical health personnel.

✓ **Youth Employment and Economic Empowerment**

Include:

- Operationalisation of the Okatyali Agricultural Project.
- Expansion of the Disability Agricultural Project.

- Support to SMEs and youth enterprises.
- Agricultural financing and agribusiness development.
- Skills development and entrepreneurship programmes.

✓ **Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Resilience**

Include:

- Expansion of irrigation and greenhouse projects.
- Strengthening community agricultural initiatives.
- Aquaculture development.
- Increased support to emerging farmers.
- Human-wildlife conflict mitigation measures.

✓ **Good Governance and Service Delivery**

Include:

- Improved monitoring of MTEF projects.
- Quarterly implementation reporting by OMAs.
- Strengthened stakeholder coordination.
- Faster procurement and project implementation.
- Enhanced collaboration with traditional authorities, local authorities and development partners.

## 11 CONCLUSION

The 2025/2026 Financial Year has demonstrated the resilience, determination and development potential of the people of Oshana Region. Despite fiscal constraints, climate-related challenges and increasing demands for public services, significant progress was recorded across various sectors of the economy and society. Investments in infrastructure, healthcare, education, agriculture, land delivery, social protection and

economic empowerment have contributed to improving the quality of life of our people and advancing the Region's development agenda.

The achievements highlighted in this report are a testament to the collective efforts of Government institutions, Regional and Local Authorities, Traditional Authorities, development partners, the private sector and communities working together towards a common vision of prosperity and inclusive development. While important milestones have been reached, we remain mindful of the challenges that still confront our Region, including youth unemployment, infrastructure deficits, increasing urbanisation and the need to accelerate project implementation. Addressing these challenges will require continued collaboration, innovation and unwavering commitment from all stakeholders.

As we look to the future, Oshana Region remains committed to accelerating development, strengthening service delivery and creating opportunities that improve the lives of all our people. Guided by the priorities of the 8th Administration and inspired by the vision of a prosperous and industrialised Namibia, we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that no community is left behind and that development reaches every corner of our Region. Together, we can build an Oshana Region that is economically vibrant, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and responsive to the aspirations of present and future generations.

**MAY GOD BLESS OSHANA REGION!**

**LONG LIVE THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA!**