



Republic of Namibia

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
KHOMAS REGION**

**State of the Region Address
(Khomas SoRA) 2018**



OFFICIAL ADDRESS

**Khomas Regional Council Chambers, 6688 Pullman Street, Windhoek North
Thursday, 31st May 2018 @ 09h00 – 13h00**

Director of Proceedings;
Hon. Members of Parliament;
Hon. Racel Jacob: Chairperson of the Khomas Regional Councils;
Your Worship Cllr. Muesee Kazapua, Mayor of the City of Windhoek;
Hon. Special Advisor to the Governor: Khomas Region: Madam Rosalia Muashekele-Sibiya;
Hon. Regional and Local Authority Councilors;
Hon. Traditional Authority Councilors;
Community leaders and fellow members;
Fellow citizens of Khomas Region;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

A very good morning to you all, and, as usual, welcome to this beautiful *Kovambo Nujoma* Community Hall!

This is the 3rd time we are gathering here since 29th June 2016, when, for the first time ever, I delivered the Khomas State of the Region Address.

I am humbled this morning as I take the podium, once more again, to address you, in compliance with the provisions of the Special Advisors and Regional Governors Appointment Amendment Act, 2010 (Act. No. 15 of 2010).

Director of Ceremonies;
Hon. Chairperson;
Honourable Members;
Ladies and Gentlemen:

Every leader appointed is on behalf of the people they serve; and not the other way round. I am standing here today as your servant, and, as the Principal Representative of the Central Government in the region, we might not do anything

without your contribution and cooperation and support. It is your region and together we can do a lot for this great and beautiful region. I am therefore impressed by the colorful audience, enthusiasm displayed during the previous two events in 2016 and 2017 and today, and, to say the least, this region has got so very energetic and wonderful people. Thank you so much for coming! I am very happy to recognize all of you!

Hon. Chairperson;

Hon. Members:

My Office as Regional Governor, Khomas Regional Council and the City of Windhoek, collectively as regional Government; we are guided by the principles of the Public Service Charter of the Republic of Namibia as well as the King IV Code on Corporate Governance. Our role entails, among many other duties and responsibilities:

- To provide timely information to Government and His Excellency, The President on matters pertaining to security, peace and stability of the Region;
- To disseminate government policies in the region and strive to ensure/facilitate their implementation;
- To coordinate central government activities in the region, particularly O/M/As' decentralized and non-decentralized functions, and facilitate decentralization of specified functions to Regional and Local Councils;
- Together with the Namibian Police, City Police and other uniformed forces and security agencies, we are collectively responsible for the security and maintenance of law and order in the Region;

- To serve as the vital link between the Central Government, Regional and Local Councils, traditional authorities and community at large; and
- To ensure accountability, transparency, value for money, public participation/consultation and good governance practices throughout the implementation of Government policies, programmes, projects and activities (at central, sectoral, regional and local levels) in the Region.

Hon. Members:

We are therefore here to take stock of our economic performance in terms of implementing policies, programmes, projects and activities during the 2017/2018 Financial Year. The public sector investment portfolio of Government alone consisted of 145 projects worth N\$9.6 billion over the review period, plus many other enormous economic activities either by private sector or donors geared towards wealth creation through providing employment opportunities to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of our people.

Hon. Chairperson;

Hon. Members:

My State of the Region Address is structured along the *Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP)* 5 pillars of Effective Governance and Service Delivery; Economic Advancement; Social Progression; Infrastructure Development; and International Relations and Cooperation.

I EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AND SERVICE DELIVERY

1. We as regional Government are still very much convinced of the potential benefits of decentralization in terms of: promoting genuine democracy, regional equity, enhancing management efficiency and maximizing mobilization and

utilization of local resources. The five functions decentralized by delegation and officially handed over to the Khomas Regional Council are still: Education, Arts and Culture; Public Works (Maintenance); Land Reform (Lands); Audio Visual and Print Media (MICT). Gender Equality of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare has also been decentralized but has not yet been gazetted, while Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has entered into consultations with the Khomas Regional Council to pave way for delegating one of their functions in 2019/2020 financial year, namely: angling licensing. Apart from that, according to the Decentralization Implementation Plan (DIP) of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD), preliminary and tentative indications are that other seven (7) functions, specifically from MAWF (1), MME (1), MoEAC (2), MSYNS (3) would be coming during or shortly after the 2018/2019 Financial Year. We are saying preliminary because in some cases consultations with both the decentralizing offices/ministries/agencies and Cabinet are still ongoing.

2. Khomas Regional and Local Authority Councillors' Forum that aim to have a coordinated approach to planning and implementation of development projects in the Region has continued to function during the 2017/2018 Financial Year. The Forum gave birth to joint strategic planning sessions, budget consultation and community meetings in Khomas Region, both of which are ongoing. Unlike in the far past, mutual understanding is starting to be noticed between the two: regional and local houses of Governance in our region.
3. The City of Windhoek has established a community participation approach that would lead to self-mobilization of communities. This approach entails joint analysis, development of action plans and community empowerment to negotiate as equals and strategize for the improvement of their situation and the

ability to resolve issues affecting them. Community participation is a fundamental pillar in the promotion and protection of democratic governance, which is crucial in facilitating service delivery. It is through this approach that residents at grassroots level are equally involved in the City Council's decision-making process and in that manner transparency in local governance is ensured.

4. The provisions of the Public Procurement Act No. 15 of 2015 (Act No. 15 of 2015) have been complied with fully by all Government, particularly regional and local Government institutions in the Khomas Region. All structures provided for in the Act are in place and functional.

5. Partnership with development stakeholders, including donors and good Samaritans is very essential if we are to succeed in the pursuit of development endeavors. There have been many instances where, recently, regional Government managed to secure donor resources both externally and domestically, just in addition to those resources channeled Inside State Revenue Fund. Just to mention one sector, education, which had numerous projects securing donor assistance from: Craton Foundation; Pupkewitz Foundation; Ohlthaver and List Group of Companies; Japanese International Cooperation Agency; Embassy of Germany; and Governor-NAMSOV Community Trust Fund. Other development partners who funded our schools were:
 - Frans Indongo Primary School (in Tobias Hainyeko Constituency): Kinderhilfe – Namibia;
 - St Barnabas Primary School (in Katutura East Constituency): Gymnasium Consortium;
 - Monte Christo Project Primary School (in Moses //Garoëb Constituency): Ohlthaver and List Group of Companies;

- Kwakwas Primary School (in Windhoek Rural Constituency): German Namibia Society.

6. Under Home Affairs and Immigration:

- Hospital based office has been opened at Rhino Park maternity ward to bring services closer to the public for birth registration. Lady Pohamba Private Hospital has been identified the next for hospital based Office to be opened in 2018/2019 financial year. Disability centre located in Okuryangava has donated office space to the Ministry, thus a satellite office will be opened to bring services closer to the public during 2018/2019 financial year.
- The Ministry has launched e-passports in January 2018 to improve safety of our travel documents and join the world international standards.
- E-birth Notification System has been implemented at Windhoek Central Hospital to track and trace module for birth amendments.
- We have a significant improvement in terms of our regional population having access to birth certificates, ranging in the region of more than 90%.
- Applications for the conversion of SWA – ID’s into Namibia ID’s have been received, processed and issued as an on going process.
- And consultation with stakeholders on the Marriage Bill has been finalized.

7. Under **Public Safety and Order**, our Khomas Region, just like any other region in the country is faced with many challenges, which hamper adequate and proper service delivery, in terms of Crime Prevention, Detection and Investigation. The most common challenge is the influx of people coming from rural areas to seek employment, better living conditions and tertiary education,

which has eventually outnumbered the Regional Police strength in terms of manpower, infrastructure and general resources. However:

- Public Safety and Security is about keeping the community safe, improving the sense of personal safety in public spaces, as well as changing the perception of Windhoek as becoming a crime-prone environment. The use of technology will become increasingly important in augmenting existing policing efforts and reducing crime in specific hotspots.
- We as a region are collectively determined to face and improve service delivery, build public confidence and strive to fulfill our Constitutional obligation each year and will grow from strength to strength.
- There was a general decreasing trend in crime of 2% in 2017/2018 compared to the 2016/2017 Financial Year.
- As it has been the case in previous financial years, during the 2017/2018 period, crimes of concern in the Khomas Region continued to be:
 - Assault / Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) (decreased by 11% compared to 2016/2017);
 - Housebreaking and Theft. Housebreaking decreased by 19%; business break-ins increased by 25%; while general theft decreased by 9%.
 - Theft out of Motor Vehicle (decreased by 5%).
 - Theft from Person (Overall property crime decreased by 10%);
 - Robbery (general robberies decreased by 2% while armed robberies increased by 17%);
 - Gender-based violence, alcohol and drug abuse;
 - Murder (decreased by 27% compared to 2016/2017); and

- Rape (decreased by 44% compared to 2016/2017).
- Although still of concern, Vehicle Accident Rate (vehicle crashed) has decreased by 11%.
- With over 90% of the Khomas Region falling within the municipal jurisdiction of City of Windhoek, we are equally concerned about compliance to by-laws as a way of preserving public safety and order. Hence during the review period:
 - **Noise Levels:** Even though noise pollution has decreased with 5%) compared to cases in 2016/2017, the general noise levels remain alarmingly high.
 - **Illegal Trading:** Reported cases of illegal traders have increased by 191%.
 - **Dog Complaints:** dog complaints decreased by 78%.
 - **Land Invasions:** Land invasion increased by 75% 124 compared to 71 reported cases in 2016/2017.
- Crime, especially armed robbery, has reached alarming levels, but members of the Police have been equally to the task of apprehending criminals as well as recovering the stolen property.
- With regard to Crime Rate Reduction, Khomas Police crime reduction methods is to prevent the growth of reported crime from increasing with more than 5% - 7% annually, commencing with the reported total cases during 2016/2017 financial year as the baseline.

- We will continue our crime combating strategy through, among others:
 - conducting regular patrols in identified areas;
 - Strengthening relations through community policing.
 - Conducting of clean-up operations to address social crimes, such as assaults, gender based violence, illegal hunting and road traffic violations, and
 - Enhancing good co-operation with other Governmental, none-Governmental and Local authorities, to fight and address crime in the region. There is a need to establish more neighborhood watch groups, women and men network groups, recruiting more reservists and informers.

- The Police also commit to achieve the clearance rate of all cases with 50% annually through effective crime investigations, via:
 - Increasing clearance rate of cases through docket operations/docket inspections;
 - Increasing the number of investigating officers through advanced training; and
 - Strengthening relations with the Ministry of Justice, Prosecutor General & Attorney General to finalize cases speedily.

- The office of the Regional Commander, in conjunction with the office of the Inspector General are also in consultation to look at possibilities to set up additional Satellite Police Stations in the Region, in order to bring services closer to the community, as well as to enhance Police pro-active response to crime. The sites identified are:

- Pioneers Park (Windhoek West Constituency);
- Hochland Park (Windhoek West Constituency);
- Otjomuise (Khomasdal Constituency);
- Goreangab Dam (Samora Machel Constituency);
- Havana (Moses //Garoëb Constituency);
- Okuryangava (Tobias Haiyeko Constituency);
- Brakwater (Windhoek Rural Constituency);
- Lafrenz Township (Katutura East Constituency);
- Kloppersdal (Khomasdal Constituency); and
- Eros Park (Windhoek East Constituency).

8. The City of Windhoek is currently in the third quarter of its first year, of the Transformational Strategic Plan (2017-2022) which was launched on 14 July 2017. The first two years of a strategic plan typically set the base for the necessary turn-around strategies, with clear governance, financial rescue and strategic funding plans.

Clear deliverable worth highlighting inter-alia are as follows:

- Efforts are been made to convert conventional meters to prepaid meters for the top 500 defaulting pensioners, slated to commence as from May 2018.
- The finalisation of the Town Planning applications backlog and the completion of all building and compliance inspections within 48 hours and 10 days, respectively.
- Progress at Groot Aub which has restored 70% of its water supply and is now connected to 4 boreholes.
- Significant progress was made by government to settle outstanding debt by end December 2017, the debt book reflected N\$80,916,557 for government accounts. However by end March 2018 the debt book for government

accounts was reduced to N\$22,389,285. This notable reduction is worth applauding and we count on your continuous similar support.

II ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

1. Throughout the 2017/2018 review period, without doubt the Khomas Region has clinched to its leading role as the business, industrial, manufacturing, cultural, administrative and judicial hub of Namibia. The role of regional Government (both regional and local authority councils) has thus been that of political and fiduciary responsibility, in tandem and in commensurate with the incidence of our region in the national economy as the regional capital of Namibia.
2. From the perspective of the economy and social development, we are a conscientious direct beneficiary of Namibia's commendable progress on several fronts despite recent economic difficulties. This progress is owing to the implementation of policy interventions to bring about socio-economic development and improve living standards. As such:-
 - The size of the economy has expanded and real incomes have grown to propel Namibia in the legion of Upper Middle Income Countries;
3. Unfortunately, despite enormous investment into the region, levels of unemployment continue to grow, especially among the labour active youth, which is of serious concern to the Government, national, sectoral and regional. One reason is that our Region continues to be affluent and absorb big numbers of people from all over Namibia in search of better opportunities in terms of education, employment and health amenities. Majority of the people flocking to or already live in Windhoek and Khomas Region are youth.

- During the 2017/2018 Financial Year, the employment to population ratio in the Khomas region stood at roughly 57%. The employed persons in the informal sector make up 56% of the employed population, indicating how important this sector is to the Khomas Region. Those considered being in vulnerable employment in the Khomas Region stands at 12% of the total employed. Considering that, the national unemployment figure for the country is 34%, unemployment rate in Khomas stands at 28.4%, slightly below the national average. The majority have been unemployed for longer than a year. In terms of youth unemployment, the national average stands at 43%, whilst it stands for 37.5% for the Khomas Region. The statistics for the youth not in education and not in employment or training stands at 35%.
4. One of our strategic development stakeholders in the region, a Government Agency, is the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, which is mandated to oversee *“the maintenance of ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity and the utilization of living natural resources on a sustainable basis for the benefit of all Namibians, both present and future”*.
- From an environmental perspective, the high prevalence of litter and waste in Windhoek and settlements in Khomas Region has become a serious concern. It is now a major threat to the health of our soils, water and air as well as to the health of our people. We therefore can't agree more that the outbreaks of diseases we have experienced in this financial year such as Hepatitis E are just a direct result of our inability to manage waste.
 - This situation is also a major threat to our reputation as an international tourism destination of choice. The cleanliness of Windhoek was a factor that all tourists used to admire and remark upon. This is no longer the case and is

an issue that requires our utmost attention. We are pleased that Cabinet approved a National Solid Waste Management Strategy during the 2017/2018 Financial Year to improve the overall management of waste so that Namibia becomes the leading country in Africa in terms of standards of waste management by 2028. This Strategy tackles the development of appropriate waste management infrastructure, increasing human resources capacity, promotion of waste minimization and recycling, and raising awareness for behavioral change among our citizens.

- On the other hand, it is important that our economic development as a region is not undertaken at the expense of our environment. During the 2017/2018 Financial Year, a number of cases of environmental degradation have been brought to our attention. We are particularly concerned about illegal sand mining operations that are being carried out in the region, especially at Groot-Aub, or even at very sensitive areas like the one in proximity to a primary school at Aris Settlement. I need to remind everyone that sand mining is a listed activity requiring an Environmental Clearance Certificate in line with the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007). I therefore hereby urge all proponents engaged in sand mining to apply for environmental clearance so that their operations are undertaken legally and with due regard to the environment.
- On wildlife crime prevention, fines and penalties for illegal hunting and other related offences/crimes were amended through the amendments to the Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1975 (Act No. 4 of 1975) to make them tough for would be perpetrators. The Nature Conservation Amendment Act, 2017 (Act No. 3 of 2017) was promulgated in June 2017. Illegal hunting is a crime that is very prevalent in the Khomas Region, especially at

unsuspecting spots like resettlement Farm Versailles No. 67. We are concerned, and the ministry has and will continue to conduct several patrols on government farms, along the corridors and mount roadblocks in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies in the Khomas Region.

- The Ministry of Environment and Tourism continued to register butcheries, game dealers, professional hunters and hunting farms across the region. All these activities facilitate economic development of the rural Khomas Region.
- As part of its social responsibility, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism has provided game meat to the the !Khomain Traditional Authority community during their traditional festivities and has also donated game meat to centres of needy and vulnerable members of our society such as Mother's Voice, Mount Sinai, Foundation Care, Moriah Grace, Katutura Old Age Home, Tuhafeni Pre-Primary School, Planet Hope Centre and Children Life Change Centre. On behalf of all of you, I wholeheartedly appreciate this gesture of humanity and care.
- With regard to human wildlife conflict, the Ministry has effectively responded to numerous reported incidents of human wildlife conflict which occurred in the Khomas Region. These incidents include baboons, snakes and Kudu with rabies that astray into the suburbs of the City of Windhoek.
- Inspections were carried out on farms around Khomas Region. These inspections are important because they provide basic data needed to grant wildlife utilization permits such as hunting for selling purposes or capturing and movement of live game from one farm to another.

- The Ministry of Environment and Tourism manages *Daan Viljoen* Game Park located within Khomas Region, which plays an important role in housing many wildlife species and serves as a tourist attraction and environmental education facility within the region. The encroaching informal settlements around *Daan Viljoen* Game Park and *Von Bach* has become a serious concern, since it has resulted in the increase in wildlife crimes committed within those areas. A number of other 12 wildlife species were just illegally hunted across Khomas Region during the 2017/2018 period. At this point, I would like to warn present and prospective perpetrators of this and similar crimes to desist from carrying out such selfish and misguided acts that are tantamount to undermining our economy.
5. As far as land matters are concerned, The Khomas Regional Council in conjunction with the Ministry of Land Reform during the period under review ***convened a consultative meeting with stakeholders*** in the Region to seek views and opinions on land Reform programme and other land related matters in the preparations for the hosting of the Second National Land Conference that was supposed to take place last year. I am reliably informed that there is another round of consultations to be held soon this year in preparations for the Second National Land Conference to be hosted in October 2018. I urge all the stakeholders in the Region to honour that invitation when the time arises.
- The Khomas regional consultations served as fora for participants to submit their inputs and make comments into the programme and Agenda of the Conference;

- The consultation was independent and spearheaded by Khomas Regional Council; and
 - The Region was given an opportunity to provide the list of key stakeholders and workshop participants for the 2nd National Land Conference.
6. During the Period April 2017 to March 2018 a total of Seventeen (17) farms were advertised and processed by Komasa Regional Council's Division of Lands under the National Resettlement Programme with a total of Thirty –One farming units. Take note that no farm were advertised for Khomas Region during the period above as they were no farms purchased in the region.
- A total of Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Six – Seven (2,967) applications were received and processed by Khomas Lands Regional Office. Out of the applications received only Six (6) applicants from Khomas Region were successful and were allocated farming units.
7. During the period, the Ministry of Land Reform in conjunction with other relevant stakeholders, managed to bring resettled farmers for a Farmers Day event in the region. The objectives of the farmer day was to share farming experiences aimed at educating the Farmers on best farming practices to boost their farming activities for increased production.
8. As part of its Special Projects Portfolio, **City of Windhoek** has accomplished the following:
- Windhoek City Council approved the *Greenbuilding Construction Special Project* for a waterfront development at the Goreangab Dam area. The

project entails a waterfront development with business zoned erven with walkways and a residential component with amenities. Council and the communities will derive benefits from the project when implemented through: a new commercial development which will bring services like supermarkets, clothing shops, restaurants and furniture shops closer to the people, where people currently have to travel long distances to access such amenities.

- Windhoek City Council also approved the development of a golf course and residential component by the *Eros Valley Consortium* as a Special Project on erf Re/403 Eros Park and Portion of farm REM/EROS no.69. The development entails a state-of-the-art golf course with a residential component. Council and the communities are expected to derive the following benefits from the project once implemented:
 - Development of residential erven that would otherwise not have been undertaken; and
 - Provision of 466 residential erven in Windhoek that would otherwise not have been a priority, just to mention a few.
- Four markets were completed or upgraded during the current financial year (2017/2018) under *Upgrading of Existing Informal Markets* to the value of N\$1.1 million as follows:
 - Ceaser Street Market – Wanaheda;
 - Lyeeta Market – Okuryangava;
 - Okahandja Park Market – Okahandja Park; and
 - Post Street Mall Market – Central Business District.

- The upgrading for the above markets included the construction of new barbeque stands, extension of existing roofs to provide shelter against the sun and rain and the fencing-off of some markets. However, we take note with concern that some of such places set up for a very good purpose remain under-utilised. Some of the reasons include poor public consultation during the planning phase of those projects.

- *Northern Industrial Market:* The City received N\$3,512,673 from the Ministry of Trade, Industrialization and SME Development to procure containers and create facilities/structures conducive for trading at Erf 8219 Northern Industrial Area, as follows:
 - Under-roof open;
 - Trading areas;
 - Barbeque stands;
 - Communal storage and ablution facilities;
 - Paving of demarcated areas and connection to services (water and electricity).
 - Construction of the new market is currently underway and was due to be completed on the 30th of April 2018 at a cost of N\$4.6 Million.

- *Herero Mall:* The Windhoek City Council has approved the development of a market at Erf R/6296 (*Herero Mall*) Katutura. The provision of ablution facilities and fencing off of the site is currently underway at an estimated cost of N\$300, 000. The City is also looking at finalizing the designs for the market, in consultation with all stakeholders.

- *SME Development:*

- A total of 96 New Committee Members were elected and inducted to the Informal Markets and Industrial Stalls in February 2018.
- 15 Educational Sessions were organised, targeting 91 Market Committee members to educate and empower them to improve their management and leadership roles and improving supervision at the market from where they operate.
- 9 Educational Sessions which were targeted at the market committee members and market tenants were held. The education sessions focused on health and hygiene, HIV/AIDS Awareness, Labour Relations and Social Security obligations.
- During the 2017/2018 Financial Year, the Regional Council has funded a total of 103 Micro Enterprises to start up or expand their existing business for a total of N\$1.5 million, under the Income Generating Activities (IGAs) project.
- Some of the supported SMEs have continued to do well and some such as White Feathers Creation & Décor, a tailoring and embroidery project, have donated their services to the Regional Council as a token of appreciation. Another supported enterprise called Future Homes and Computers has also utilized the support given and has offered to provide free computer training to Regional Council staff as a token of appreciation. Other success stories of this project can be attested by

growing enterprises such as SMART Auto Body Repair, Ingo Shanyenge Fashion designer and many others.

- The Regional Council continuous to monitor the progress of Income Generating Activities (IGAs) to determine the impact and sustainability and identify the capacity gaps of beneficiaries. In fact in 2016 already the Regional Council conducted a Rapid Assessment on a sample of 100 Income Generating Activities (IGAs) to assess the impact and it established that the IGAs programme provides a significant source of livelihood for the beneficiaries and community at large.
- *Socio-Economic Surveys:*
 - As part of its function to plan for development in the Region, the Khomas Regional Council has committed to conduct socio economic surveys in Dordabis and Farm Versailles No. 67 localities in order to obtain first-hand information that will serve as baseline and basis for development planning, policy- and decision-making, and for management and administration of the localities. The collected data will also help in directing development planning in the localities and address the issues of illegal occupation of land and land-grabbing.
 - This much needed data will also be useful to donors, public and private developers and investors and other development practitioners pertaining to the demographic and socio-economic features of these localities.

9. On *Rural Development*, the Khomas Regional Council has rolled out different targeted interventions aimed at improving the living standards of our people in Windhoek Rural Constituency. These are: Micro Finance Scheme, Rural Employment Scheme, Cash/Food for work programme, Support to Poor Farmers, One Region One Initiative and Rural Sanitation.

- **Under Micro-Finance:** A welding project *Suwama Investment cc* located at Mix Settlement was funded to the tune of N\$49,000, creating employment for three (3) people.
- **Rural Employment Scheme:** A project specialising in garbage collection and recycling called *Environmental cc* was implemented at Groot Aub to the tune of N\$28,656 dollars, creating employment for five (5) people.
- **Cash for work:** A road clearing project called *Khanubeb Road Rehabilitation* at *Khanubeb* was funded to the tune of N\$37,929, creating employment to 23 people.
- **Support to Poor Farmers:** An animal fodder producing project called *Dordabis Animal Fodder* was implemented and funded to the tune of N\$11,700 dollars, creating employment for three (3) people.
- **One Region One Initiative:** A chicken farming project at Groot Aub called *Mbishi Poultry* was supported with the drilling of a borehole and construction of a chicken house to the tune of 1 million dollars, creating employment for four people. This project is currently 85% completed.

- **Rural Sanitation:** Contractors are busy with the construction of toilets in Windhoek Rural Constituency as part of the *Harambee Prosperity Plan*. To date, Council has successfully constructed 105 toilets at Audabib, Kanubeb, Noasport and Dordabis localities. Currently, contractors are appointed for Farm Versailles and Stink Water to construct a total of 72 toilets in the two localities. Initially, Khomas Regional Council had planned to construct 223 such toilets, however this could not happen due to continuous land issues and in the end they could only start construction during the 2018/2019 financial year and had to reduce the number from 223 to 185 toilets. As it happens elsewhere in this region, the land issue still haunts us as in some instances we had to pull-offsite due to land dispute. At Khanubeb we could not finish constructing 38 toilets due to the same problem and we had to relocate to other sites. However, I am delighted to report that the first 27 units are planned to be handed over at Aubabib. The total budget for the programme was N\$2,307,692.00, of which N\$1.4 million has been spent sofar.

III SOCIAL PROGRESSION

1. In overall:

- Access to basic services, especially for education, health and portable water has continued to expand.
- Government remained committed to funding for free primary education and meeting the needs of a free secondary education and increased access to tertiary and vocational training. This is attested by the significant share of the budget that continues to be accorded to the education sector and social sectors in general.

- Social safety nets are expanded in quality and quantity, thus serving as the first line of defense against poverty and vulnerability for beneficiary groups in our Region.
2. In terms of individual sectors, as part of the war against poverty, declared by His Excellency the President, the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare administers the social grants (Old Pension Grant and Disability Grant) and implements Food Bank Programme.
- Provision of Social Grant remains one of the key functions of the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare. Currently the Ministry records a total number of Twenty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Thirty-Seven (23,337) social grant recipients for Old Age Pension and Disability Grant respectively of which Eighteen Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty-Six (18636) beneficiaries receive the Old Age Pension Grant, while Four Thousand, Seven Hundred and One (4,701) are recipients of Disability Grant in Khomas Region.
 - With regards to the implementation of Food Bank Programme, which is aimed at addressing hunger and food insecurity in the urban and peri-urban areas of Namibia. The Food Bank is currently operational in Seven (7) Constituencies in the Khomas Region, namely Moses //Garoëb, John Pandeni, Samora Machel, Katutura East, Katutura Central, Tobias Hainyeko and Khomasdal Constituency respectively. The Ministry is still able to successfully continue the Food Bank distribution. The current total beneficiaries of the Food Bank in all seven constituencies in

Khomas Region stands at 15 156 households which represents 68 499 persons.

3. As far as Gender Equality and Child Welfare are concerned:

- Twenty eight 28 (25 females and 3 males) Educarers were trained in the seven weeks ECD Basic Curriculum training. The main purpose of this training was to equip caregivers with different skills, knowledge and approaches to the provision of services and to build their capacity in the newly developed ECD curriculum as well as to enable them to work with children and their parents, to identify needs and solution to be taken into account when it comes to the provision of ECD services.
- A total of N\$998,000 was paid to the 66 caregivers currently operating in the Khomas Region.
- Supported four ECD centers with teaching, learning materials and equipment which are.
 - Zebra kindergarten in Windhoek Rural;
 - Happy Edu care in Katutura East;
 - Erasmus Hendjala kindergarten in Tobias Haiyeko; and
 - Happy Kids in Samora Machel.

4. Under Education, Arts and Culture:

- In terms of 2017/2018 Financial Year, our goal was to improve both our grade 10 and 12 examinations national ranking two places up and to improve our infrastructures to match the ever increasing number of new enrollments.

- Despite the fact that the Region has invested time, energy and other resources in schools and capacity building for teachers, the results presents a stark reality that more still needs to be done if we are to improve our ranking nationally. We, as a region and the schools management alike, will go back to the drawing board to critically analyze these disappointing results and identify the negative driving factors while, at the same time, build on and strengthen those positive aspects that have seen a number of schools improving their positions.
- At least 25 youths from previously disadvantaged backgrounds in our region have received scholarships from Namcol Scholarship Fund. The scholarships were awarded through the Regional Council for young people who cannot afford to enroll with NAMCOL and improve their Grade 10 and Grade 12 subjects.

Despite the financial difficulties experienced in our region and the country at large, our Region managed to construct a total of 40 classrooms at the following schools:

- 24 classrooms and an ablution block at Green Leaves Primary School in Tobias Hainyeko Constituency, all funded by government.
- Two classrooms at Elim Primary School in Khomasdal Constituency, all funded by government.
- Four classrooms at Olof Palme Primary School in Samora Machel Constituency, funded by Pupkewitz Foundation.
- Four classrooms at Groot Aub PS in Windhoek Rural Constituency, funded by Pupkewitz Foundation.

- Six classrooms at Auas Primary School in Katutura East Constituency. Two of the classrooms were funded by the German Embassy while four were financed through the Japanese Overseas Grant.

In addition, two containerized classrooms were erected at Monte Christo Project Primary School in Moses //Garoëb Constituency.

Plans to construct new schools in the region remains on hold due to lack of funding. The planned new schools yet to be built as soon as funding is available are: Havana Secondary Project School in Moses //Garoëb Constituency and Mix Settlement Primary School in Windhoek Rural Constituency.

In terms of our goals for infrastructure development we have made great strides, mainly with the help of our developmental partners who came on board and donate classrooms.

5. The Khomas Regional Directorate of Health incorporates two (2) hospitals – Katutura, and Windhoek Central Hospital; one (1) Health Centre - Katutura and eleven (11) Clinics.

- During the 2017/2018 Financial Year, radio health talks for the communities at large were conducted by health care workers on the different local radio stations on a daily basis and they are still ongoing. These are on: Prevention from Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) – Sexually transmitted diseases, - Diabetes, - Gout and Arthritis, - Post Trauma emergency care, - Mental health, and Palliative care.

- A multi sectoral Khomas Regional School Health Committee was established and meets on a monthly basis to discuss issues concerning schools in the Khomas Region. Health education, inspection of school environment, toilets and water points are conducted regularly and feedback is given to Principals, life skills teachers and cleaners at most schools.
6. Under its Strategic Funding for Financial Sustainability, City of Windhoek had secured funding for its Township Development Fund (prioritize informal settlements) to the tune of N\$40 million. However:
- The Hepatitis E and Listeriosis outbreaks redirected the funds for the proposed development upgrading of informal townships (Okahandja Park A, B, C, D & Onyika), to accelerate the provision of basic services and mitigate the immediate health risks associated with the outbreak. To this end, a number of initiatives were implemented.
 - As this emergency situation is within the CoW's jurisdiction, curbing of the outbreak largely depends on the CoW to provide adequate access to sanitation, improved hygiene and safe water.
 - In response to the outbreak the CoW developed the City of Windhoek Hepatitis E Outbreak Emergency Response Plan which is currently being implemented. Council at its meeting held on 31 January 2018 approved an amount of N\$32,000,000.00 for operational expenditure for Hepatitis E Outbreak Response Plan with N\$ 17 000 000.00 allocated for 2017 and N\$ 15 000 000.00 allocated for 2018.
 - To date Council has procured 25 water tanks (10 000 L) whereas by 7 May 2018 , 30 concrete castings (platforms for tanks) were done, 23 tanks were installed, 360 standpipes were ordered (150 received), 7 km extension of

water network was completed, 260 water samples were collected with satisfactory results free from Clostridium perfringens, E. coli, Coliform and Coliphages. Expenditure thus far is estimated at about N\$5,000,000.00.

- Four (4) toilets procured by Khomas Regional Council Budget were installed at Havana 4 Way stop on 20 April 2018, 16 flushing toilets are to be constructed by end of June 2018, 391 broken toilets were repaired, and 10 rivers were cleaned and decontaminated. Three (3) Mayoral Clean-up Campaigns were conducted and is ongoing.

In addition:

- The installation of 20 flush toilets by June 2018, 4 of which are earmarked for the Havana Four-way Area;
 - The donation of 20 toilets by the Chinese Embassy through the Regional Governor' Office still to be constructed;
 - Eleven (11) toilets from Governor-Namsoy Fund to be constructed as well; and
 - The Khomas Regional Council will provide and construct 66 flush toilets at the estimated cost of N\$1.2 million.
7. We are also very concerned about youth development. Hence our endeavor to partner up with the Ministry of *Sport, Youth and National Service* to develop our youth through sports and other interventions.
- The population of Khomas Region is rather young as the trend since independence shows that a good 68% to 70% of the population consists of young people. This trend has been quite consistent since independence.

- The Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service (MSYNS) has thus teamed up with Namibia Sports Commission (NSC), deliberated on and produced a proposal to institute an annual event to be code-named National Youth Games (NYG).
- The first NYG Tournament took place 9th – 11th May 2018 for the under 20 years old. To test the viability and sustainability of the NYGs, the first 3 tournaments will take place in Windhoek, Khomas Region. The event venues were the Independence Stadium, Police Training Fields, and other Olympic fields in Olympia.
- Over 1,800 athletes from all 14 regions participated in football, athletics, basketball, boxing, judo, netball, swimming, tennis and volleyball.
- Khomas Region won this first edition of National Youth Games after raking in 66 medals of which 36 were gold; 18 silver and 12 bronze. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Khomas Regional Team of young men and women for making all of us and our region proud. We give them a very big hand of applause!

IV INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

1. Among the five decentralised functions in the region is Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) – Khomas Regional Office, tasked to disseminate and document information and create awareness around Government policies, programmes, projects and activities in the region. During the 2017/2018 period, some of the activities carried out by the Office were [that]:

- Khomas Regional Office continued to support, visit, assist or promote the ICT - Rural community Centres at Tobias Hainyeko and Groot Aub in order to improve, increase and fulfil the ICT literacy vision of the Government on access to and utilization of ICT services such as e-commerce, internet, access to educational materials and many more. Digital divide is reduced through the introduction of ICT services, usage and skills to rural communities in Khomas Region.
- Khomas Regional Forum was created by the MICT - Khomas Regional Office in creating general citizenry sense of pride, national cohesion, as well as awareness around ambassadorship for the country, respect for the country's national symbols and implementing values that differentiate Namibia from other countries. The campaign with the theme "My Namibia, My Country, My Pride": The Campaign is to inform and educate Namibians and others on social ills such as tribalism, racism, vandalism, crime, gender based violence and lack of respect toward national symbols among other issues by encouraging a sense of pride and responsibility among citizens.
- Khomas Office has also completed the production of the documentary on Hepatitis E outbreak in Khomas Region. The production involved filming of different activities and events regarding the outbreak. The documentary is edited and shared with the Ministry of Health and Social Services.
- The staff of MICT - Khomas Regional Office has commenced with the information sharing sessions, open talks and video shows on public information and education on the causes, preventions and impacts of Hepatitis E within the Khomas Region. The information and education

dissemination of the causes, impacts and preventions will be an on-going activity in all the constituencies of the Khomas Region.

2. As far as land delivery is concerned, during 2017, City Council availed land through the Offer-to-Purchase, Private Treaty and Tender methods with our partners in the suburbs of Academia and Otjomuise.
 - During 2017, the City allocated additional land to the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (Directorate of Education, Khomas Region) for the construction of schools for the residents in Khomasdal and surrounding Townships.
 - The Mass Housing Project continues under the auspices of the MURD with land allocated by the City, Otjomuise Extension 10. The Minister of Finance has now given all municipalities the mandate to alienate assets (land being part of said assets for Council), in line with previous alienation methods as per the Local Authorities Act (Act 23, 1992).
 - Ino Investment offered 116 available serviced plots in Otjomuise Extension 5 and Acacia Investment availed 98 serviced plots to successful applicants.
 - The last phase of selling erven in Academia Extension 1 and Otjomuise Extension 5 is already ongoing as at May 2018.
3. City of Windhoek implements a programme on *Internal Township Establishments*: Mix Settlement (Proper & Extension 1) is just part of this programme.

- The Mix Settlement is a combination of single residential erven ranging from $\pm 300\text{m}^2$ to $\pm 450\text{m}^2$ and a number of non-residential erven. The development was approved at Council, the Namibia Planning and Advisory Board (NAMPAB) and Township Board level.
 - An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken. Once the EIA is approved, a general plan can be drawn up and the newly created erven can be registered. The City will undertake the Survey of the Township and the residents will need to be re-organised before services are constructed. Currently, the area only has rudimentary services. Full water, sewer, electricity and road services will be provided after the said approvals.
4. Transport affects the daily lives of Windhoek's residents especially in terms of commuting to and from work or accessing essential services. Windhoek, including its neighboring towns, needs a new approach to ensure efficient and co-ordinated sustainable urban transport. The existing challenges of urban transportation (i.e. congestion, insufficient parking & inadequate provision of public transportation) are already measurable and on the increase.
 5. City of Windhoek is therefore implementing a "*Sustainable Urban Transport Master Plan (SUTMP): "Move Windhoek"*" project, whereby:
 - On May 11, 2016 it was decided to first develop lines 1 and 2 to high operational standards and provide passenger information for these lines, before operationalising the other lines.

- Seven (7) new bus lines were implemented (Line 1, 2 3, 4, 5, 6 and 11) during the 2017/2018 Financial Year;
 - The City in partnership with GIZ procured (26) new buses in order to improve the capacity of resources for improved quality service delivery. Twenty-four (24) buses have already been delivered and the remaining two (2) will be delivered before end of June 2018.
 - The new buses have already been deployed to service the newly introduced bus lines which have extended the coverage to Okahandja Park and part of Khomasdal and Dorado Park.

6. *Groot Aub Transformation Project*: Progress against the Groot Aub Action Plan is as follows:

- A Project Manager for the Groot Aub Project Office was appointed on 08th September 2017.
- The Emergency Services Division deployed a fire engine to Groot Aub and performs a daily two-person shift.
- City Police carries out a two person call-out and ad-hoc site visits to Groot Aub whilst steps to secure permanent presence are currently underway.
- Eight skip containers are placed at strategic sites and emptied on a weekly basis.
- One refuse disposal site is operational at Groot Aub.

- The City contracted two ward cleansing contractors and steps are currently underway to award the same contract to local resident/groups.
- A solid waste community consultative meeting was held on 28th October 2017.
- Monthly community clean up campaigns are planned and conducted at Groot Aub.

7. Water and Sewer Infrastructure:

- During the previous financial year, the City completed a multi-million dollar project to provide individual house connections to recently formalised erven in the low-income area of Havana. A similar project will be rolled out further to areas identified in Otjomuise, Katutura and Havana. There is however a substantial cost associated with these projects and it can only be done as financial resources are available.
- The City is currently busy with additional projects investigating the further expansion of the utilisation of the Windhoek Aquifer as well as addressing quality concerns that were experienced in the past. This is in line with the City's aim to deliver sufficient water of an acceptable quality to all its residents.
- With the recent Hepatitis E outbreak in some of the above areas, emergency funding to the value of N\$50 million was provided for sanitation and better access to potable water to the residents.

8. *Residents Served with Basic Services before Formalisation (i.e. Expansion of Communal Water Network) - (2000)*

- The Infrastructure, Water & Technical Services Department is busy with a project to geo-reference all stand-pipes. This will allow for better and more cost-effective planning and installations focusing on areas that have none to very little coverage. In addition, the City is busy with an expedited roll-out programme to assist with the curbing of the Hepatitis E outbreak.
- The City spent approximately N\$4.1 million since January 2018 in the construction of more than 18 km of pipelines aimed at exclusively improving access to drinking water in the informal areas of Moses //Garoëb and Samora Machel constituencies.
- As part of the Hepatitis E and Listeriosis Project, the City has planned and is in the process to install 370 stand-pipes providing better access to safe drinking water, as well as providing an additional 88 running toilets in the various informal areas are planned.

9. *Electricity:*

- There has been ongoing investment in the development of new electricity distribution infrastructure in the City of Windhoek reinforcing existing networks in built up areas and establishing new networks in un-serviced areas. The introduction of additional capacity and network reconfiguration is being done in order to improve reliability, guaranteeing system security, accommodating changes in electricity demand, population shifts and ensuring quality of power supply.

- Khomas Regional Council is dedicated to the provision electricity services to its rural communities. However, due to nonexistence of the Central Regional Electricity Distribution Company (Central RED) the Regional Council is faced with challenges of operation and maintenance of the rural electricity distribution networks as the Regional Council does not have technical capacity to run these networks.
- To address these challenges, Regional Council has entered into negotiations with NamPower (for an interim arrangement) to take over the operation and maintenance of the rural electricity networks on behalf of KRC until such time that Central RED becomes operational.

V INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COOPERATION

1. *Under SME Development:*

- The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Government in collaboration with the Namibia University of Science and Technology's FABlab and sponsored by Standard Bank Enterprise Banking and the City of Windhoek, hosted the first *ADDVENTURE* Pitch Night for the year, on 8 March 2018 at 17:00 at the Warehouse Theatre. The event witnessed 8 entrepreneurs pitching their business ideas to judges of whom 2 female entrepreneurs won admission to the Bokamoso Entrepreneurial Centre for a 3-year incubation programme
- The Transnational Student Project called Developing Solutions for a City Incubator was a collaborative programme between the Namibia University of Science and Technology, University of Bremen (Germany), and the University of Free State (South Africa). Ten business students with honors and masters level from three different countries came together during the

month of March 2018, and formed transnational teams to explore challenges and potential to develop suggestions for the Bokamoso Entrepreneurial Centre, which is an incubator in Katutura operated by the City of Windhoek. The project started on 5 March 2018 for the duration of three weeks. The aim of the project was to identify needs and challenges of individual entrepreneurs and to develop solutions for the identified issues by applying scientific methodology and expertise in different areas. Students conducted a market analysis and contacted stakeholders to develop a concrete prototype for implementing their suggestions. During this project, students also fostered their inter-cultural competencies and learned to apply their academic expertise in a practical setting.

VI KEY CHALLENGES & RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. Key Challenges & Recommendations

6.1.1. Macroeconomic

Developmental challenges and opportunities are still there. These entail, inter alia [that]:

- The structure of the economy is still narrow with the preponderance on primary production and export, evidently to the poor performance of the economy in 2017. This has had negative impact on job creation and eventually improved income and, consequently poverty reduction. There is need for diversification and expansion.
- Unemployment is still high, with a bias towards the youth and persons in rural areas. This, if not tamed in a short run, could have negative social repercussions both at household and society levels.

- The distribution of means of income remains highly skewed and inequality, though declining, is one of the highest by global standards. There is need for drastic policy interventions.
- Poverty levels though declining are still high, necessitating the deployment of multi-faceted sustainable approaches to social safety nets and pro-active poverty reduction strategies.

6.1.2. Economic Sector

- From an environmental perspective, the high prevalence of litter and waste in Windhoek and settlements in Khomas Region has become a serious concern. It is now a major threat to the health of our soils, water and air as well as to the health of our people. The outbreaks of diseases we have experienced in this financial year such as Hepatitis E and Listeriosis are a direct result of our inability to manage waste. We need to inculcate a culture of environmental hygiene among our people. The clean-up Campaign initiated and launched by His Excellency, the President on 25th May 2018 is a good start towards a sustainable and everlasting clean Namibia and Windhoek, with Windhoek reclaiming its place as the cleanest city in Africa. I therefore congratulate our President for the initiative, and all the residents, sponsors and donors for actively participating in the campaign. This is just the beginning, for us to make impact we should maintain this momentum because it was not just a once off, but will remain an ongoing campaign.
- Farm prices are ever escalating and not matching with financial resources at our disposal, hence we are unable to acquire sufficient agricultural land to meet the high demand for land in the Khomas Region. Apart from the

Willing Buyer – Willing Seller Principle, Government might need to explore other avenues provided for in the law.

- Help organise and host **the 2nd National Land Conference** that aims to address the challenges of Land Reform in the country. His Excellency, Dr. Hage Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia in his New Year Message in 2017, informed the Nation that “**the Government would forge ahead with the hosting of the Conference to review the Resolutions of the first Land Conference of 1991 and chart the way forward**”. Now we know that the Conference would only take place in October this year **2018**. So now and ever we shall also keep urging our people of Khomas and the rest of Namibia to be very patient while the Government through the Ministry of Land Reform is organising the hosting of the second National Land Conference that will deliberate and pass resolution on some of the pertinent issues on land reform in the Country.

6.1.3. Infrastructure Sector

Infrastructure development is a resource-intensive undertaking. Domestic and external resources should be mobilized.

6.1.4. Social Sector

- In terms of economic sustainability and social harmony, the Khomas Region has experienced an influx of people coming from rural areas for employment and better living. Due to the influx, the population in the region is growing day by day, which has eventually outnumbered the capacity to plan and provide services in terms of infrastructure and general resources, to meet the basic needs and requirements for a decent livelihoods. There is need for inter-Regional Development Planning to stem the rural-urban migration.

Meaning all the regions, central Government and other stakeholders to come together and brainstorm on the best alternatives, options and way forward.

6.1.5. Administrative Sector

- The City of Windhoek experienced a number of challenges both internally and externally during the year 2017. One of the biggest challenges was trying to deliver services with limited financial resources. This financial pressure was not only experienced at local authority level but, throughout the whole country. As regional Government, we support the City's appeal for financial backup from central Government to subsidize and sustain their strategic operations.

6.1.6. Public Safety and Order Sector

- Over the past years we have experienced a wave of resignations, deaths and also retirements by our seasoned officers who opted to leave the Force either for greener pastures. This is an unfortunate situation indeed, as the organization continues to lose the cream of its workforce and valuable expertise. Budgetary constraints have caused the Namibian Police not to be able to recruit for the next three (3) years.
- Accommodation (office and residential) for Police Officers is also a challenge.
- Apart from the financial challenges which the Police are facing, much also needs to be done to improve police public relations in combating and reporting of crime.

VII CONCLUDING REMARKS

Director of Ceremonies;

Hon. Members:

In conclusion, I would say that as in previous financial years, we have noted with pride very effective and efficient performance by the public and private sectors during the period (2017/2018 and perhaps way before) under review. Capacity building and service delivery efforts were intensified. Poverty and inequality continued reducing on a sustainable basis. Innovation and creativity took centre stage across the whole planning system. But a lot still needs to be done.

From an economic perspective and social development, Namibia and the Khomas Region have made commendable progress on several fronts despite recent economic difficulties. This progress is owing to the implementation of policy interventions to bring about socio-economic development and improve living standards.

- Access to basic services, especially for education, health and portable water has expanded;
- Government remained committed to funding for free primary education and meeting the needs of a free secondary education and increased access to tertiary and vocational training; and
- Social safety nets are expanded in quality and quantity, thus serving as the first line of defense against poverty and vulnerability for beneficiary groups.

However, we still have other issues of serious concern. In brief, and just to unpack a little bit our key challenges and recommendations:

- High unemployment rate among the youth in particular;
- Poverty;
- Illegal squatting on State/private land and land grabbing. People in this region are seriously warned to desist from and avoid by all means grabbing state, municipal or any other private land;
- Wildlife crime and illegal hunting. As such transgressions would undermine and erode the fabric of the only economy that sustains our livelihoods, let the perpetrators be equally warned that the law will take its course against any culprits;
- Climate change;
- Alcohol and Drug/Abuse, especially among our youth become destructive to their own future. These tendencies should be avoided at all cost because we need our youth to concentrate on their education unhindered. The future development of this Region needs youth leaders who are visionary, scientifically and technically competent through a healthy education system and environment. Alcohol and drugs can seriously interrupt the growth of such future leaders. In the same vein, trading hours of all alcohol outlets should strictly be adhered to. So the owners of all these outlets are therefore also hereby being instructed to comply with the laws;
- Noise Pollution;
- Human wildlife conflict;

- Environmental degradation and dilapidation;
- Prevailing drought situation that affected most parts of Namibia, including our Khomas Region;
- Influx of people into the Khomas Region and mushrooming of informal settlements;
- Lack of basic services, e. g. water, electricity and housing;
- Disaster risk management. On more than one occasion I have advised our people to avoid disaster prone situations, especially to prevent unnecessary loss of lives and/or injuries. Winters is approaching, our people, especially those in informal strictures to be cautioned not to leave fires unattended to because of the increasing number of structures burning down. Also avoid river beds that are susceptible to flooding, diseases contamination or hideouts and eventually prey ground for criminals;
- Lack of financial resources;
- Aging infrastructure; and
- Land and housing.

Hon. Chairperson;

Hon. Members:

Now as we embark upon 2018/2019 Financial Year, it is our duty and responsibility to join hands in tackling all those challenges and shortcomings.

Failing to do so would mean that our goals and objectives will always rely behind implementation.

Hon. Members;

There is therefore no doubt that the financial year 2017/2018 was not only challenging but also and mostly successful. We could navigate against all the odds in front of us. However, Central, regional and local Government have remained steadfast and continued committed towards rendering effective and efficient community services to our residents. The water scarcity and precarious financial situation, aging infrastructure, land, housing and other issues will remain a concern throughout the 2018/2019 Financial Year.

Let us rally behind the Regional Council and City of Windhoek as they continue to deploy responsive strategies to mitigate the prevailing challenges.

From a Public Service Delivery perspective, good governance, accountability and transparency are key ingredients of our democratic culture and as such should be embraced by all of us. Our people need to be involved in all affairs of their Government through their structures. Accountability means giving timely feedback on developmental issues of concern to our people on how they expect their lives to be improved. Against this background, I have noted with serious concern the reluctance of offices/ministries/agencies of Government in Khomas Region who do not provide and produce better, inclusive data and information needed to compile a better and inclusive annual State of the Region Address (SoRA).

Equally important is the need for our public participation in the development process.

Finally, I thank you all for availing time to attend this State of the Region Address 2018!

I also thank those offices/ministries/agencies of Government and other stakeholders for submitting reports that made this year's State of the Region Address possible.

Throughout the 2018/2019 Financial Year and beyond, we shall continue to rely on your cooperation and support!

Long Live the Republic of Namibia!

Long Live the great Khomas Region!

I thank you!