



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM**

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE MOTION OF HONOURABLE MUHARUKUA ON THE VISIT TO
KUNENE REGION TO FAMILIARIZE ITSELF WITH THE PERSISTENT DROUGHT
CONDITIONS THAT HAS CAUSED THE LOSS OF LIVESTOCK AND LIVELIHOODS**

BY

**HONOURABLE ANNA SHIWEDA, MP
DEPUTY MINISTER**

**PARLIAMENT
11 MARCH 2021**

1. Honourable Speaker, allow me to contribute to the Motion of Honourable Muharukua on the devastating drought that has hit some regions of our country, most specific, part of Erongo and ^{the whole of} Kunene Regions.
2. There is a well-known (solidarity) adage that says "An injury to **One** is an injury to **All**". Therefore, the drought situation affecting the people as well as livestock in that part of our country has touched us all.
3. Without going too far into my patrilineal history or family tree, I very well remember how my ^{late} father ^{may his soul rest in peace} will "Okulitanga" and will always end up with his great-grand father "Hatjikuti wOmutjimba". Who knows if these are still his paternal relatives in that part of the country. *Therefore, we are all One!*
4. When the rain season started it was very promising and the outlook and weather forecast in the country was good as predicted by the Meteorological services of the Ministry of works. In addition, the Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum (SACOF) forecasted good rainfall for 2020/21 rainfall season with possibility of flood for the SADC region.
5. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform went out in full force to mobilize farmers, which include farmers in all crop growing regions, Kunene North included, to start with preparation and cultivation of their farm lands. However, after the first good rains and after the crops germinated the situation changed because of the prolonged dry spells experienced. The crops started wilting and people are now facing a bleak future.
6. Honourable speaker, I am glad to share with ^{the} this Honourable Members that the Crop Assessment Team of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform just returned to the office after spending a month in the field from 08th February to 5th March 2021 and they confirmed the fact that Kunene Region is the most severely affected by the continuous drought. Our team is now busy compiling their report **on the crop prospects and**

food security in the country. Such reports will guide future interventions by government.

7. In addition to the Ministerial Team, the Executive Director in the Office of the Prime Minister conducted a National Consultative Workshop on the revised Food and Nutrition Policy to all 14 regions and they met with the affected people. It is through their intervention that the office of the Prime Minister mobilized urgent short term assistance and relief to the affected people. *in the form of Food Parcels for people and Fodder for livestock*
The fodder that went out to Kunene was procured from Ndonga Linena and Etunda Green Scheme Projects in Kavango East and Omusati region respectively.

LONG LASTING SOLUTION

8. Honourable Speaker, I share the same view that Namibia needs a long lasting solution to address the effects of drought and climate change. However, there is no long term solution without sustainable water provision and other resources, including financial resources. There is, therefore, need to allocate more resources to the sector.

PROGRAMMES IN THE PIPELINE

9. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform has considered various programmes and projects to mitigate the effects of drought in all regions of Namibia. In fact, the Honourable Minister presented those programmes and projects during the tabling of the 2020/2021 Ministerial Budget, and I am glad to once more mention *some of* them here for information of the Honourable members and the public at large.

9.1 Water Provision

- i. As you would appreciate, our government is doing everything possible in order to ensure water security and supply in the country.
- ii. As part of the government drought intervention in Kunene region, 16 boreholes were drilled while 19 boreholes were installed and 18 water points rehabilitated.
- iii. In October 2020, I travelled to Okauwa in Opuwo Constituency in Kunene Region to handover some water installations sponsored by Road Fund Administration and Road Authority.
- iv. Specifically, in the Opuwo Rural Constituency where Okauwa is situated two new boreholes were drilled, while six existing boreholes were installed with the required water extraction equipment. The challenge with boreholes is that if it does not rain for a prolonged period, the water table drops making it difficult to access water.

9.2 Ruacana South Water Supply Scheme

- As a long lasting solution to water supply the government has planned the Ruacana South Water Supply Scheme which jointly funded by the ADB and the government of the Republic of Namibia ^{on 50:50 basis} It will supply piped water to communities both in Kunene and Omusati regions. The Pipeline will pass through the following main areas: Olushandja- west (treating plant will be enlarged) – Onesi- Okaambola- Omakange- Opuwo.
- The government has secured funds (loan) from the African Development Bank.

- The Ministry has devised an implementation plan which will be jointly implemented with the African Development Bank. *and Nam water*
- The work is scheduled to commence this financial year. *into the next financial year.*

10. Agriculture Projects

- With the availability of water, *from Ruacana South project* the agricultural projects that have been put on hold would be able to be implemented. I am speaking of projects such as:

10.1 The Small Stock Development in Communal Areas

- Kunene region benefited from this government programme, where 20 farmers were given each 20 ewes and one (1) buck.
- IREMA project also provided 20 farming households with 20 ewes and 1 ram/buck to compliment government effort.
- Under the project of improving Rangeland and Ecosystem Management Practices of Small Holder farmers under conditions of Climate Change (IREMA). An amount of N\$13 Million is available to procure small livestock to benefit 100 farmers with 20+1 animals, translating into a total of 2100 drought resilient Small Stock breeds. *in Kunene region.*
- The Ministry intends *to use* part of the IREMA Funds, to procure fodder for the already distributed small stock (goats).
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10.2 Green Scheme Projects

- IREMA is funding the revival of the sysfontein- chowarib green scheme projects. I can confirm that the designs are done and the contractors are on site.
- Fodder production will be introduced along the Ruacana South pipeline which including *as* fodder production under hydroponics.

- I can confirm to the Honourable House that under the Non-mechanized Small Scale Farmer Hydroponic Fodder Production, 3343 farmers were already trained in hydroponics fodder production countrywide including 411 from Kunene region.

11. The parliamentary committee proposed trip to Kunene region is welcomed **but** their specific purpose is not well articulated to be able to address the crisis.

As stated above the government is well ceased with the drought situation in Kunene region and what is urgently required is implementation.

I thank you for your attention