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MANDATE

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has been mandated to sustainably manage the living aquatic resources and promote the aquaculture sector.

VISION

The vision of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is for Namibia to be a leading fishing nation with a well-developed aquaculture industry.

MISSION

The Mission of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is to responsibly manage living aquatic resources to continuously ensure a conducive environment for the fishing and aquaculture sector to prosper.

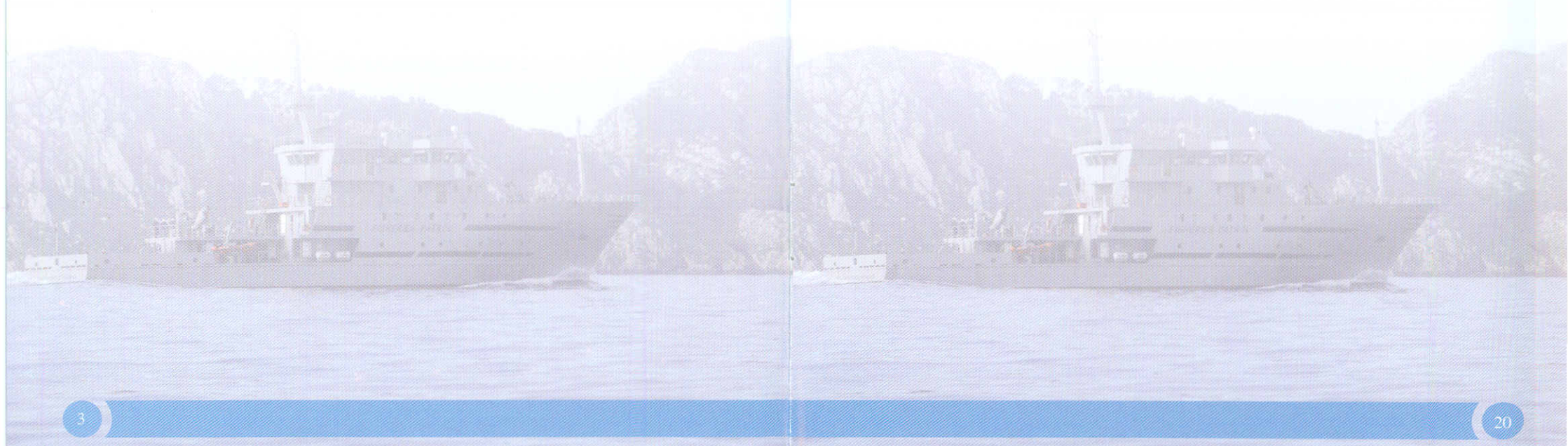
2.0 Conclusion

Honourable Chairperson,

Allow me to submit, to this August House, Vote 22: Fisheries and Marine Resources for 2013/2014 for consideration and approval.

We are committed to implement all programmes as I have highlighted them in this motivation in order to fulfil our mandate of the sustainable development of the fishery and aquaculture sector.

I thank you,





I am also pleased to inform you that last year the Ministry participated in various international fisheries expo to share experience from international best practices.

In order to carry out activities under this programme during 2013/2014 financial year, an amount of N\$ 18 142 000.00 is sought for support.

**1.7. Programme 7:
Tax Revenue Administration**

The main purpose of this programme is to verify landings and collect quota fees and other quota related fees which constitute as the main revenue to the state from the fishing industry.

During 2012/2013 financial year, the Ministry collected an amount of N\$ 46 947 369.71 in quota fees from the fishing industry. However, the hake and monk sectors are expected to pay their last quarterly instalment by the end April 2013.

Further, in the 2012/2013 financial year, the Ministry has embarked on Revenue Collection and Debtor's Management System to assist the Ministry improve its revenue collection process.

The system will manage right holders invoicing details for purpose of quarterly invoicing and tracking of payment due. The system is expected to be operational in the 2013/2014 financial year, and we anticipate an efficient revenue collection as a result.

In order to carry out activities under this programme during 2013/2014 financial year, an amount of N\$ 2 016 000.00 is sought for support.

MFMR'S CORE VALUES

Transparency- the Ministry will ensure to deliver its services in a transparent manner, while upholding confidentiality and protect information of individual right holders. The Ministry will maintain close links and constructively exchange information with fishing industry and other stakeholders, to ensure better cooperation and understanding on sector issues and thus enhance development and good governance for the benefit of the future generation.

Accountability- the Ministry will ensure that complaints about our service delivery are dealt with fairly and that prompt action is taken to rectify shortcomings in areas where satisfactory standards have not been achieved.

Equity- the Ministry apply relevant policy and legislation so as to ensure that equitable access to resources leads to benefits for all interested stakeholders, while facilitating the Namibianisation of the fishing sector.

Honesty- The Ministry will ensure to, at all times, apply the policy and legislative framework in a fair, trustworthy, genuine and equal manner, while upholding the professional standard in delivering the service.

Loyalty- the Ministry must ensure the creation of a conducive working environment in which staff members will be motivated as team players to conduct their service and make the contribution towards success diligently.

Diligence- the Ministry and its staff are dedicated to provide its services with full commitment in line with the needs and desire of our clients/stakeholders as a team.



1.0 Introductory Remarks

Hon. Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,

I am delighted to rise before this Honourable House to seek approval of the Budget for Vote 22: Fisheries and Marine Resources.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my Colleague Comrade Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila for her continuous devising of a pro-poor National Budget geared towards reducing poverty, inequality and unemployment as captured in its theme "Growing the Economy, Optimising Development Outcome."

Honourable Members,

The amount which I seek the House's approval is a sum of N\$ 282 722 000.00 million for the 2013/2014 financial year.

This amount will be used by my Ministry in its quest for sustainable management of the living marine and freshwater resources and to promote responsible development of aquaculture. This will in turn lead to improvement of the lives of fellow Namibian through increased food security, sustainable employment, poverty reduction and overall economic development of our country.

Honourable Chairperson,

Allow me now to outline the performance of the fishing industry during the reporting period.

Namibia's fishing industry remains the country's second highest export earner of foreign currency after mining. In addition, the sector plays a significant role in terms of employment creation and government revenue generation. The overall business environment within the fishing industry has improved during the 2011/2012 season and most commercial fisheries experienced an increase in market prices as a result of different economic factors.

1.6. Programme 6: Policy and Economic Advice

The main purpose of the programme is to advice the Ministry on socio-economic performance of the fishing industry and also to analyse the social-economic impact of the allocated total allowable catch (TAC) on the fishing industry.

Honourable Chairperson,

This programme covers the socio-economic appraisal of Total Allowable Catch (TAC), for every commercial fishery which is done at the end of each fishing season and before the new Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for the following season is determined. Socio-economic recommendation are also given to the Marine Advisory Council which in turn advice the Minister on the ideal TAC for each fishery.

The programme is also responsible for monitoring and tracking the performance of the fishing industry, especially progress made on employment, investment and socio-economic contribution by the fishing industry. This is done to ensure that maximum benefit from the living marine resource is accrued to the economy.

During the financial year 2013/2014, the Ministry will continue with the review of the Marine Resources Policy, Act and Regulations. It is expected that wide consultations with all relevant stakeholders would be embarked upon in order to have inputs from various constituencies.

I would like to inform the house that an internal consultation have taken place during the 2012/2013 financial year which officially kicked start the review process. In addition, various stakeholders within the fishing industry and supporting industry have been consulted in the process of devising a project document that will serve as a guiding tool for the entire process.



Our programmes are also intended to lead to develop a behavioural change for the prevention of sexual transmission of HIV, adapted to different target groups.

Further activities include scaling up positive prevention in HIV-negative people. Increase roll-out of prevention programs for higher risk areas in the fisheries sector. Engage in advocacy and lobbying on behalf of fishers and the fishing communities for interventions, including access to Anti-Retroviral Drugs (ARVs) that specifically target the needs of these groups.

Therefore, an amount of N\$ 1,582 000.00 is directed to HIV/AIDS related activities.

Honourable Chairperson,

Information technology is becoming a necessity rather than a luxury, therefore the Ministry will continue to procure and maintain IT equipment and upgrade the network infrastructure to facilitate efficient communication and service delivery. Therefore an amount of N\$ 5, 141 000.00 is aimed to this activity.

The expected outcome of these programmes is to create a conducive environment, improve service delivery, and effective and efficient management of human resources. Further it will also improve productivity and service delivery due to increase awareness created amongst staff members.

Honourable Chairperson,

In order to carry out activities under this programme during 2013/2014 financial year, an amount of N\$ 48 544 000.00 is sought for support.

This was influenced by the improved fish sizes, which resulted in favourable market prices for some fish and fishery products.

One of the factors determining the cost of operation in the fishing industry is fuel, which inevitably increases the cost of production when a huge increase is experienced during a financial year. During the reporting period, diesel prices increased three times averaging at N\$ 10.44 per litre at the coastal pump price. This translated into an increase of N\$ 1.32, compared to N\$ 0.33 in 2011. The rising fuel prices have a negative impact on the production cost for this sector and the strong exchange rate reduces the sector's competitiveness against cheap and low quality fishery products from far eastern countries such as China and Thailand.

With respect to the exchange rates, we have observed that the exchange rate was stable in the last financial year and remained almost static at an average of USD1=N\$8 throughout the year.

Honourable members,

The preliminary figures from the Namibia Statistical Agency indicate that the fishing industry's contribution to the Gross Domestic Production (GDP) for the year 2012 was 3.1%, which is a light reduction from our GDP contribution in 2011 which stood at 3.6%. However, we are optimistic that the figure might go up when the final figure is released. The final value of exports in the fishery sector stood at N\$ 5, 1 billion in 2011, compared to 2010 when it was N\$ 4, 4 billion. This was due to increase in prices of value addition and increased in landings.

We therefore expect a gradual recovery of the fishing sector performance and its contribution to GDP and employment back to its glorious level.



Honourable Chairperson,

The mariculture sector has recorded significant recovery and production of shellfish namely oysters and abalone. 5, 6 million oysters were sold in 2012, mostly exported to Eastern and South African markets. Our main centres of production remain Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Lüderitz, with promising new development in Oranjemund. The mariculture sector has gained enormous experience by facing many challenges and is poised to grow, having overcome many of those challenges. There has been good skills development and training in the sector coupled with a good amount of research and development for new species, markets and techniques for sustainability of the sector.

Favourable natural inshore environmental conditions in 2012 promoted good growth of shellfish. Mariculture production was not hindered by hydrogen sulphide and harmful algal bloom problems.

Honourable Chairperson,

Allow me to motivate for specific programmes, as follows:

We are requesting an amount of N\$ 282 722 000.00 for 2013/2014 financial year for the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to fulfil its mandate.

Out of the total of N\$ 282 722 000.00 allocated to Vote 22, an amount of N\$ 240 722 000.00 is budgeted for operational activities, while N\$ 42 000 000.00 is earmarked for expenditure on capital projects. Out of the operational expenditure, N\$ 11 529 000.00 is allocated to Fisheries Observer Agency (FOA), while N\$ 17 528 000.00 is allocated to Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute (NAMFI). Lastly, an amount of N\$ 7 000 000.00 will be transferred to the Lüderitz Water Front Development Company (LWFDC) as part of our Ministry's contribution to that project.

Honourable Chairperson,

Major activities carried out under this programme are such as the extension of the Head Office to ensure that the Ministerial staff members are housed within the same complex is still in the pipeline. Phase one of this project i.e. demolition, excavation and stabilization has been completed during 2010/2011 at the cost of N\$ 7, 000 000.00.

However, due to unforeseen technical circumstances involved in the tendering and awarding processes of the project, phase two could not commence to date. We are hopeful that construction activities for phase 2 will commence early in the 2013/2014 financial year. For this purpose, an amount of N\$9, 000 000.00 is provided for in the budget. This project is one of the urgent priorities of the Ministry as it would improve the working environment for staff members.

These activities are general administration, and management of immovable and movable asset of the Ministry. The implementation of the Ministerial Strategic Plan, as well as the Performance Management System (PMS), is also catered for under this programme. For this purpose, N\$ 14, 236 000.00 is budgeted for general administration services.

Honourable Chairperson,

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has devastating effects on our society, and to fight this omnipresent plague on the workforce, Ministry has allocated a budget to HIV/AIDS related activities. These activities aim at creating awareness, promote behavioural change, and advocating changes for counselling.

In addition we would embark on a prevalence testing programme, though voluntary, with the ministerial staff. We set out and planned programmes for continuous training of peer educators, focal persons and counsellors; to hold awareness forums on poverty, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.



At the beginning of September 2012, the Ministry received an invitation from the Chinese Government to send a team to China to look at the designs before the implementation of this project. Construction is scheduled to commence during the 2nd quarter of this year.

Although the construction will be funded through the grant, additional funds at an amount of N\$ 500 000.00 is needed to pay local engineers to oversee the construction process. Rehabilitation of these facilities will increase fingerling production, thereby increasing fish production and creation of employment opportunities for Namibians in the fish trade sector.

Honourable Chairperson,

Our ultimate aim is to develop aquaculture in all 13 Regions of our country, especially in those Regions which are bestowed with a large quantity of water. The Karas Regional Council has also earmarked the construction of the Noordoewer Inland Aquaculture Centre. Following the completion of a feasibility study, it was recommended that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) be carried out. An amount of N\$ 44 000 was spent on the EIA.

Honourable Chairperson,

In order to carry out activities under this programme during 2013/2014 financial year, an amount of N\$ 50, 904 000.00 is sought for support.

1.5. Programme 5: Coordination and Support Services

The purpose of this programme is to provide administrative support to the Vote's programmes and ensure proper financial management, optimal utilisation of resources such as human, financial, information technology, maintenance, logistical management, and capacity building.

The allocated amounts will be utilised as follows:

1.1. Programme 1: Survey and Stock Assessments

The main purpose of this programme is to assess the status of fishery stocks, and the marine environment to provide scientific advice to the government on the sustainable utilisation of such resources.

Surveys to assess the population dynamics and distribution of commercially important stocks, such as hake, monk, horse mackerel, pilchard, crab, rock lobster, seals as well as those to determine the state of the marine environment, were conducted during the 2012/13 financial year. The surveys revealed that most of the commercially important fish stocks are in a stable state, while pilchard still needs to recover to a sustainable level where it can make a significant contribution to the economy.

By now it is common knowledge that during the 2012/13 financial year, the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has acquired a new multi-disciplinary research vessel. This vessel is expected to significantly improve the Ministry's capacity to conduct marine surveys for the resources and the environment. Thus far the vessel has been used to conduct few surveys on the environment, during which highly specialized oceanographic data was generated.

Scientific surveys and research activities aimed at assessing the population dynamics and distribution of our commercially important stocks and the marine environment, will be conducted during 2013/14 financial year to continue with the data trends necessary for stock assessment.

With the acquisition of the new research vessel, funds need to be availed for the maintenance of the vessel, as well as for other operational costs such as fuel and lubricants. Currently, there is a shortage of funds needed to utilise this vessel to the maximum.



The additional budget requested by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources to run this new vessel during the 2013/14 financial year was not approved and this matter needs to be reconsidered. Furthermore, field trips will be undertaken to collect fisheries and biological data required for stock assessment and for monitoring the seal population.

Further, the Ministry will embark on the completion of the Pilchard and Horse Mackerel Management Plans in the 2013/2014 financial year. The Hake Management Plan, which was completed during the 2011/12 financial year, shall serve as a template for the remainder of the Management Plans still to be completed.

The implementation of Management Plans is required for Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAF) that has been agreed upon by fishing nations and the FAO to start in 2010 already. The implementation of EAF shall see fishing nations moving away from target oriented fisheries management towards considering a broader spectrum of the entire ecosystem, including socio-economic issues, when managing fisheries resources.

Honourable Chairperson,

To fulfil our responsibilities under this programme we are seeking N\$ 34 181 000.00 for the 2013/2014 financial year.

1.2 Programme 2: Human Resources Development

The programme is aimed at equipping staff members with different skills and training development programmes in various fields at all levels in the Ministry.

Water quality and biosecurity are key factors affecting mariculture production and are carefully monitored by the Ministry's researchers. To date Namibian mariculture activities are tested and are disease-free and the water quality is excellent. Separate laboratories are dedicated to water chemistry, phytoplankton and biotoxin analyses, histology, parasitology, and microbiology. Some of the laboratories are fully equipped and functioning; others await budgetary allocation to be equipped adequately.

Honourable Chairperson,

I am delighted to report to this House that the Ministry is in the final stage of completing the Aquaculture Master Plan which would be presented to Cabinet for approval. The Master Plan was crafted with the financial and technical assistance from the African Development Bank (ADB).

Upon approval, the Ministry will embark upon the implementation of the Plan as per the recommendations in the Plan which would be a working road map for addressing complex and multifaceted issues impending the development and growth of the Aquaculture sector. It would also serve as a guide to put in place measures to kick-start, consolidate and expand aquaculture in Namibia. It is estimated that the initial implementation of this plan will cost the Ministry approximately N\$ 3 million.

Honourable Chairperson,

The People's Republic of China has made a grant of N\$ 15 million available for aquaculture development in Namibia. This grant will be used for the upgrading of the Hardap Inland Aquaculture Centre in the Hardap Region. Areas identified for upgrading include tunnels for ponds, construction and compaction of earth ponds, piping and pump systems, construction of fish processing facilities as well as upgrading of existing buildings.



Honourable Chairperson,

The fish feed plant in the Omusati Region produced a total feed of 234 tons during 2012 compared to 175 tons in 2011. Although the feed production has increased, this was still too low compared to the estimated annual production of 380 tons. The ingredients used to produce the 234 tons was costed at ± N\$1 million, which is far higher than the N\$375 000 budget allocated for the financial year 2012/2013. In addition, we are still faced with the challenge of sinking pellets that we produce at the feed plant. This is due to the fact that the production line is not equipped with the necessary equipment, specifically the extruder or a steam boiler which is estimated at a cost N\$ 900 000.00.

It is against this background that we are requesting N\$ 2, 000 000.00 for the purchasing of fish feed ingredients and the above mentioned equipment.

Honourable Chairperson,

The inauguration of the Caprivi Regional Office last year will enable the Ministry to promote the development of fish farming in the region, including rendering extension services to existing and emerging fish farmers. The scientists at this office will be conducting scientific research and biological surveys in the rivers and lakes in order to monitor the fish catch per unit effort and species composition.

During the year under reporting a state of the art building complex in Swakopmund housing offices and multiple laboratories has been completed and marked a dream come true for the Mariculture staff at the Coast. Twin laboratory complexes in the newly constructed sea-facing block offer facilities to ensure that the important aspects of research, quality control and disease surveillance are addressed by the Ministry for the mariculture industry.

During 2012/13 the Ministry allocated bursaries to fifteen (15) staff members as a contribution to the accumulative target of 30 per MTEF period; in the fields of fisheries, aquatic sciences, economics, marine engineering class 6, administration, human resources, Information technology and management.

Twelve (12) bursary holders have completed their studies obtaining certificates, diplomas and honours degrees, while others are continuing with their studies in various fields together with ten (10) current (2013/14) bursary and scholarship holders.

In addition, the Ministry has trained 146 staff members in various skills development fields, during the last financial year, in order to address its strategic needs. A large number of staff members have been trained in the areas of HIV/AIDS awareness, Electronic Documents and Record Management System (EDRMS), while at least more than 10 staff members are continuing with qualifying training in various fields.

In addition, the Ministry through the Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute (NAMFI) has trained personnel in Navigation, Engineering and basic Safety, which is in compliance with the International Convention of Standard of Training and Watch-Keeping for the Seafarers. Further, skills and capacity development are still required in different disciplines of finance, administration and other relevant areas.

Honourable Speaker,

An amount of N\$ 1 790 000.00 under Vote 22, as per MTEF, has been allocated to this important programme for the 2013/2014 financial year. This amount has been reduced drastically by 50 % when compared to 2012/13 financial year.



1.3. Programme 3: Marine and Inland Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)

The purpose of this programme is to ensure that fishing and fisheries related activities within the Namibian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and inland water bodies comply with the country's fisheries legislations. The MCS programme is further meant to ensure that fishing activities by licensed Namibian flagged vessels outside the EEZ are carried out in accordance with international laws and conservation measures of regional fisheries management organisations to which Namibia is a contracting party.

Through our effective MCS programme, Namibia continued to record successes in the effort to fight against IUU fishing. The presence of fisheries inspectors at sea, in the air, at harbours, processing plants, along the coast, and along the rivers and inland fresh water bodies, has prevented and deterred would-be fish pirates from our waters.

Further, the presence of the fisheries patrol vessels at and around Cape Cross and the fisheries patrol air crafts in the sky have served as a deterrent to those foreign intruders with intention to sabotage the sustainable utilisation of the Namibian seals population. The Ministry has deployed personnel on board PV "Anna Kakurukaze Mungunda" and "Nathanaël Maxuili" during six months of harvesting to monitor the movement of these economic saboteurs.

Honourable Chairperson,

It is worth-mentioning that we have recorded a break-through in the fight against illegal and unregulated fishing within inland fisheries. A number of fishermen have taken advantage of the shortcoming within the inland fisheries legislations. This includes the vastness of the area and the number of inspectors available to enforce inland fisheries legislation especially in the Caprivi Region, taking advantages of these shortcomings; they tried to conduct illegal and unregulated fishing activities.

However, the Joint operation "Hammer on the Nail" that was spearheaded in June 2012 by the Namibian Police caught them by surprise. The operation has resulted in the reduction level of illegal fishing and fisheries related activities in Caprivi region and especially around Lake Liambezi. The Ministry intend to undertake more surprise operations in the future. I would like to inform the House that the Ministry is in the process of amending our inland legislation in order to harmonise our law with those of our neighbouring countries.

Honourable Chairperson,

Allow me to inform this August House that the constructions of MFMR Regional Offices are budgeted for under the MCS Programme. Last year, I informed this House that my Ministry has completed the Katima Mulilo regional offices. These offices were inaugurated in May 2012. Today, I am glad to inform the house that the Ministry has commenced the construction of MFMR regional offices in Kavango Region. With the construction work already at an advanced stage, we hope to progress well on this project during this financial year.

In order to carry out activities under this programme during the 2013/14 financial year, an amount of N\$ 127 145 000.00 is requested.

1.4 Programme 4: Promotion of Marine & Inland Aquaculture

The purpose of this programme is to ensure responsible and sustainable development of aquaculture, to achieve food security, socio-economic benefits and environmental sustainability as well as to promote responsible aquaculture production practices. We are embarking on development which aims at meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.