



MOTIVATION OF THE REPORT ON THE DEPUTY SPEAKER OUTREACH
PROGRAMME TO THE OHANGWENA REGION FROM 21 – 25 AUGUST 2023.

OCTOBER 2023

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

I Loide Kasingo, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, hereby lay up on the table a report on my outreach programme to the Ohangwena Region from 21 – 25 August 2023 for discussion.

I am pleased to report to this August House that I lead a delegation to the Ohangwena Region composed of myself, Loide Kasingo as head of the delegation, Hon Sebastian Karupu, Hon Jennifer Van Den Heever, and Hon Paula Kooper. The delegation was accompanied by four (04) staff members to provide administrative and logistical support.

The delegation visited seven (07) Constituencies in the Ohangwena Region namely; Eenhana, Engela, Okongo, Omundaungilo, Epembe, Oshikunde and Ohangwena Constituency.

The meetings were well attended by the Constituency Councilors and their staff members, Constituency Development Committee, Veterans of the Liberation Struggle, traditional leaders, spiritual leaders, Government officials, business community, and the community members residing in the visited Constituencies.

The main purpose of the Deputy Speaker's outreach programme to the Ohangwena Region was to promote the concept of taking Parliament closer to the people. The delegation used the platform to explain the work of Legislature in relation to the other Organs of the State, focusing more on legislation, oversight and representation.

At the end of the engagement, community members were given the opportunity to comment and ask questions and also share their challenges that they are experiencing in their different Constituencies. Interactions focused more on public service delivery in the areas of road infrastructure development, water infrastructure, drought relief for human and livestock, public health, education, youth unemployment and socio – economic development amongst others. Where responses could not be given immediately, the assurance was given that Offices, Ministries and Agencies would be made aware of the concerns and issues raised through consultations and by tabling the report in the National Assembly for discussion.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

After completion of this outreach program, letters were written to eight (8) Ministries, highlighting the concerns and challenges of the constituencies visited. I am happy to report that the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Defense have responded positively on the concerns raised.

Considering all the views and concerns of Community members from all the visited Constituencies of the Ohangwena region, the delegation is recommending the following strong recommendations for discussion, consideration and approval by the August House;

- a) The Ministry of Health and Social Services and Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to collaborate and work closely with the Ministry of Works and Transport when they build schools and clinics to ensure they make provision for access roads especially in areas that are hard to reach as well as to ensure there is portable water at all schools and clinics,
- b) Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform to consider building earth dams particularly in the Regions and Constituencies that have access to flood water (Engela and Ohangwena Constituencies amongst others) that always go to waste instead of harvesting them and be used productively for agricultural purposes among the Community members. The close example of large volume of flood water that goes to waste is from the flood water that run from the Cuvelai – Etosha basin,
- c) Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform to drill more deep boreholes to tap water from the aquifer two, especially in the Ohangwena and Oshikoto Regions in the Constituencies that are largely affected such as; Omundaungilo, Oshikunde, Okongo, Nehale IyaMpingana, Okankolo, Eengodi, Epembe and Eenhana Constituency amongst others. The same initiative should be rolled out to other needy Regions as well,
- d) The Government through the Ministry of Works and Transport to consider upgrading the DR 3602 Oushake – Okankolo road (57km) to a bitumen standard because this road is used by a large number of people and it is connecting the Ohangwena and Oshikoto regions together.

In addition, Government through the Ministry of Works and Transport is requested to fast-track the construction of DR 3666 Ondjele – Onepandaulo gravel road that will connect Kavango West with Ohangwena and Oshikoto regions amongst others.

It is further strongly recommended for Government to consider developing the proclaimed road DR 3659 Oshitishiwa – Nehale IyaMpingana, because this road is connecting the Ohangwena and Oshikoto regions and it is also connecting Helao Nafidi Combined School, and Olukupa Combined School. This road is used by so many people including those coming to Okongo State Hospital and it has a deep sand and it need to be developed to the required

standard to relief community members who continue to suffer through traveling on[†]his risky road.

- e) Government through the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to consider building a Secondary School (Vision School) in the Epembe Constituency which is home to more than twenty-two (22) schools. This vision school will cater for learners not only in Ohangwena Region, but as well as learners in the nearby regions, for example Oshikoto and Oshana Regions, and some of the deep rural areas close to Epembe.
- f) The Government through the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to consider deploying adequate communication network towers at designated areas including Omundaungilo, Oshikunde, Epembe, Ohangwena, and Nehale IyaMpingana Constituencies amongst others to address the challenge of poor communication network coverage that has limited the community members including youth to make use of benefits that come with information and communication technology,
- g) The Ondeshifilwa Shrine where 21 Gallant Warriors of the Liberation Struggle are laid to rest in the Engela Constituency is still in a dilapidated condition and it is strongly recommended for Government to look into this matter and possibly consider developing it into a proper Memorial Shrine. The 21 former PLAN fighters who are buried at this Shrine were killed by the South African apartheid forces on 01 April 1989,
- a) It is strongly recommended that Government through the Ministry of Defense and Veterans Affairs to fast-track the process of paying out the approved projects for the Veterans, and to make effort of registering and recognizing those that were left out during the previous registration process. In addition, some community members claimed that when Veterans die, their projects funding are ceased, and there is no provision for their money to be inherited by their dependents. It recommended for this matter to be looked into. The Ministry responded to this concerns.
- h) It is recommended for Government to consider allocating budget to be managed at the Constituency level in the form of Constituency Development Fund. This fund will help Constituencies to attend to critical emergency issues as the first responder in their respective Communities. It will further help to implement small developmental projects and self-income generating projects in their Communities,

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In conclusion, it is worth noting that some of the challenges raised by the community members might be in the annual implementation plans of various Offices, Ministries and Agencies, but it is important that we discuss them, find sustainable solutions together and to see how fast we would be able to address them in the best interest of our fellow citizens, as their elected representatives.

I appeal for your humble support and I thank you.