



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

11 SEPTEMBER 2023

## Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. PARTICIPATION.....	2
3. METHODOLOGY AND CONSTITUENCY VISITED.....	2
4. CHALLENGES OF THE CONSTITUENCY VISITED.....	3
4.1 EENHANA CONSTITUENCY.....	3
4.1.1 CHALLENGES.....	3
4.1.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY.....	3
4.2 ENGELA CONSTITUENCY.....	4
4.2.1 CHALLENGES.....	4
4.2.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY.....	5
4.3 OKONGO CONSTITUENCY.....	6
4.3.1 CHALLENGES.....	6
4.3.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY.....	8
4.4 OMUNDAUNGILO CONSTITUENCY.....	9
4.4.1 CHALLENGES.....	9
4.4.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY.....	11
4.5 EPEMBE CONSTITUENCY.....	11
4.5.1 CHALLENGES.....	11
4.5.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY.....	13
4.6 OSHIKUNDE CONSTITUENCY.....	14
4.6.1 CHALLENGES.....	14
4.6.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY.....	15
4.7 OHANGWENA CONSTITUENCY.....	17
4.7.1 CHALLENGES.....	17
4.7.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY.....	18
5. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	19
6. CONCLUSION.....	22

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Hon Loide Kasingo, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly undertook an outreach programme to the Ohangwena Region from 21 – 25 August 2023. The main purpose of the Deputy Speaker's outreach programme to the Ohangwena was to promote the concept of taking Parliament closer to the people. The delegation use the platform to explain the work of Legislature in relation to the other Organs of the State, focusing more on legislation, oversight and representation. The delegation further engaged the local, regional, traditional, church, community leaders as well as local citizens on service delivery and listen to their views on how they would like to be served. The outreach programme of the Deputy Speaker brought Parliament, especially the National Assembly, to the doorsteps of communities for meaningful interchange on issues of national importance.

The expected outcome at the end of the outreach programme was for the community members of the visited Constituencies to have a clear understanding of the Organs of the State and their functions, understand their constitutional rights and how their needs could be addressed, as well as to understand the law-making process so that they can make informed decisions, contributions and demands through elected representation.

At the end of the engagement, community members were given the opportunity to ask questions and also share their challenges that they as a community 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, and youth unemployment 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 by tabling the report in the National Assembly for discussion.

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 report covers challenges raised by the collective members of the respective Constituencies that were visited, for the attention of responsible Offices, Agencies or Ministries, as well as for attention of the Parliamentary Standing Committees of the National Assembly. However, it

should also be noted that some of the challenges raised by the communities may have been addressed or attended to by the time this report is being drafted and laid before the Table of the National Assembly for implementation.

## **2. PARTICIPATION**

The delegation composed of four (04) Members of Parliament namely; Hon Loide Kasingo (head of delegation), Hon Sebastian Karupu, Hon Jennifer Van Den Heever, and Hon Paula Kooper. The Members of Parliament were accompanied by four (04) staff members to provide administrative and logistical support namely; Mr Gideon Shuuya, Ms Hester Christiaans, Ms Beaula Kazondovi and Mr Gift Musweu.

## **3. METHODOLOGY AND CONSTITUENCY VISITED**

The delegation of the Deputy Speaker outreach programme used the approach of paying a courtesy call to the Hon Councilors and members of the Constituency Development Committee of each Constituency visited before the main engagement with the community members. This arrangement allows the delegation to engage the Constituency leadership and be briefed of the detailed pertinent challenges in the Constituency. The delegation addressed the community members through a formal public engagement by speaking to them face to face, and at Constituencies where there were facilities, the delegation was able to use the PowerPoint presentation. The following Constituencies were visited;

- a) Eenhana
- b) Engela
- c) Okongo
- d) Omundaungilo
- e) Epembe
- f) Oshikunde and
- g) Ohangwena.

All the seven Constituencies that were visited acknowledged Government in its efforts to provide the required basic services such as portable water, education, social services, agricultural services, Safety and Security, communication network in some areas, roads infrastructure in some areas, and employment opportunities, however, they underscored that there are still persistent challenges that are highlighted below.

## **4. CHALLENGES OF THE CONSTITUENCY VISITED**

### **4.1 EENHANA CONSTITUENCY**

#### **4.1.1 CHALLENGES**

The Eenhana Constituency was visited on the 21 August 2023 and they expressed the following challenges;

- a) The Constituency is confronted by high rate of youth unemployment,
- b) The Constituency is big with a large population but they have limited Pre-Primary schools in various villages of
- c) The Constituency, limiting their children to attend school at the right age due to long distances,
- d) The Constituency is reported to have limited access to electricity, limiting rural development especially entrepreneurs who would like to come up with business in the rural areas,
- e) Framers in the constituency expressed concern that they do not get any support from Government to enhance their small scale farming initiatives,
- f) The Constituency strongly condemned the issue of same sex marriages adding that it is against their culture, values and biblical teaching.

#### **4.1.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY**

The members of the Eenhana Constituency requested the Government to consider the following for their Constituency;

- a) Requested the Parliament Committee responsible for employment creation to work closely with the line Ministries to see how they will solve the challenge of youth unemployment in the Constituency. They further requested the operationalization of the Constituency Development Fund that should be managed at the Constituency level to look into the plight of community members,
- b) Requested Government through the line Ministries to look into the aspect of ensuring that there are adequate number of Pre-Primary schools in the Constituency to cater for the education need of all the children,
- c) Requested for rural electrification to be intensified and transformers to be widely distributed in the Constituency,
- d) Requested Government to come up with a programme of providing large and small stocks to farmers who are willing to do farming in the Constituency, considering that

some farmers lost all their livestock due to drought in previous years and they need to be assisted with restocking at the Constituency level. This initiative will help them to improve their livelihood because most of them only depend on small scale farming for survival.

## **4.2 ENGELA CONSTITUENCY**

### **4.2.1 CHALLENGES**

The Engela Constituency is reported to be hosting around 28 000 population as per the Namibian Population and Housing Census of 2011. This Constituency was visited on the 21 August 2023 and they expressed the following challenges;

- a) The Constituency is confronted by youth unemployment for both graduates and non-graduates,
- b) The Constituency has challenges with regards to access to health care services, there is only one health care centre which is Engela State Hospital. In addition, community member still travel long distances to access health care facilities,
- c) There is lack of access road infrastructure to rural communities, and this situation negatively affect the community in accessing essential services like hospital, school, church shopping facilities and water point especially during raining season,
- d) There is no Police station in the constituency and community members have to travel long distances to access this essential service,
- e) There is no Agriculture Office in the Constituency and community members have to travel either to Omafo or Ongenga to access Agriculture related services,
- f) There is no Community Hall or Multipurpose Centre in the Constituency, and community meetings are conducted in the boardroom which cannot accommodate a large number of people,
- g) There are no earth dams in the constituency to harvest flood water from Angola during the raining season,
- h) There is no Community library in the Constituency to cater for youth and other members of the community,
- i) Artificial border between Namibia and Angola has divided community that once lived together and share resources such as food and grazing amongst others. This issue remain a challenges especially for people who live along these borders because for them

to cross such borders they would be required to go to Oshikango border post for proper immigration control which is far for people living along these borders.

- j) There is a large number of residents without national documents and stateless people in the Constituency,
- k) There is a challenge of domestic violence due to poverty and unemployment,
- e) The Constituency strongly condemned the issue of same sex marriage, and applaud Parliament for their effort in ensuring that they strengthen law to avoid loopholes in the Constitution and avoid similar incident to happen in the future.

#### **4.2.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY**

The members of the Engela Constituency requested the Government to consider the following for their Constituency;

- a) The Government to come up with a project of constructing earth dams to harvest flood water from Angola during raining season. In addition, Government to come with green schemes along these earth dams where a great number of youth and other community member will be employed to produce food. This will solve the problem of unemployment and food security in the Constituency.
- b) Government to consider building some clinics to relief Constituency member who find it difficult to travel to Engela State Hospital. When a clinic is build, an access road should be considered to allow community to access the facility without a hassle. In addition the Constituency requires a Community based Social Worker to aid psycho social support service within the rural community,
- c) The Constituency needs a Police Station, Agriculture Office, Community Library, Boarding Secondary School, and a Community Hall to cater for the demanding needs of the Constituency members,
- d) Ministry of Home Affair, Immigrations, Safety and Security to look into the issue of large numbers of people without national documents in the Engela Constituency, as well as the issue of movement across the artificial borders between Namibia and Angola in the Engela Constituency for a common ground to be reached without compromising security and immigration control measures,
- e) The Ondeshifilwa Shrine where 21 Gallant Warriors of Liberation Struggle are laid to rest is still in a dilapidated condition and Government is requested to consider developing it into a proper Memorial Shrine,

- f) Biblical education to be reintroduced into school curriculum to address issues related to gender based violence,
- g) Old aged people in the rural villages to be provided with pit latrine toilets for health and hygiene purposes,
- h) Removal of grade 10 from Combined Schools needs to be revisited because young children who are not well developed suffers a lot and become vulnerable especially those who do not find hostel accommodation at schools where they are admitted for Grade 10.
- i) Drought relief food for people and livestock need to be intensified in the constituency because community members did not harvest anything this year.

Apart from the challenges and request highlighted above, the Constituency members applauded Government for providing essential services to the Constituency such as water utilities and clean tap water, electrification in some rural areas, tared road and access gravel roads to some schools as well as additional Combined Schools and few health outreach centers amongst others.

### **4.3 OKONGO CONSTITUENCY**

#### **4.3.1 CHALLENGES**

The Okongo Constituency was visited on the 22 August 2023 and they expressed the following challenges;

- a) The Okongo Constituency is confronted by a challenge of road infrastructure and access roads. Proclaimed roads such as Oshitishiwa and Nehale IyaMpingana roads are not yet developed as required and community members suffers through traveling in these terrains,
- b) There are no access roads to Olukula clinic, Eendobe, Okamanya, and Omboloka, and one can only reach there using a 4x4 wheel drive vehicles due to heavy sand. In addition, there are no portable water at these clinics for the effective operation of such facilities,
- c) Community members in the Okongo Constituency are scattered around the tropical forest where they depend on farming, but have limited access to water and majority of them still use water from wells which is not safe for human consumption,



- d) There is a large number of youth unemployment in Constituency and this situation lead to unproductive activities amongst youth and general community members. This situation will create instability if it is not adequately addressed on time,
- e) It is alleged that there are more private Doctors who are practicing privately as opposed to Doctors in the Okongo State Hospital and majority of the local people cannot afford them. In addition, it is alleged that private Doctors are giving more prescription of medicine that lead to overdosing among some patients. It is further alleged that this is done for individuals who own Pharmacies to sell more medicine for profit making purpose. It is also alleged that there is a challenge of more vendors privately selling medicine to local people and discourage locals to go to the hospitals. This issue need to be regulated and possibly investigated by Ministry of Health and Social Services because it poses a serious risk among community members,
- f) Okongo Constituency is home to about 300 people living with disability, and majority of them live in remote villages and find it difficult to reach health care facilities,
- g) In some areas of the Constituency, children are still taught under the thatched hats and they travel long distances access schools,
- h) Majority of the Veterans of the Liberation Struggle have approved projects but the responsible Ministry is alleged not to pay their project on time while they are still alive. I addition, when Veterans die, their projects funding are ceased, and there are no provision for their money to be inherited by their dependents,
- i) There are no material and facilities in language laboratory, computers labs , and science labs and the Constituency in lacking behind on this areas of teaching and learning,
- j) The development budget is limited at Local Authority level especially for Okongo Town Council, and they find it difficult to develop new location with basic facilities before they relocate people,
- k) The Constituency is stricken by drought, and people are suffering from hunger including their livestock,
- f) The Constituency strongly condemned the issue of same sex marriage, and encouraged Members of Parliament to amend the Constitution to put an end to the issue that is capable to undermine the culture and values of the people of Namibia.

#### 4.3.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY

The members of the Okongo Constituency requested the Government to consider the following for their Constituency;

- a) Requested Government to consider developing the proclaimed roads such as; DR 3659 Oshitishiwa – Nehale IyaMphingana Road. This road is connecting two regions (Oshikoto and Ohangwena regions) and it is also connecting Helao Nafidi Combined School, and Olukupa Combined School (in Oshikoto Region). The road is used by so many people including those coming to Okongo State Hospital and it has a deep sand and urgently need to be developed to the required standard to relief community members who continue to suffer through traveling on his risky road.

In addition, the other roads that need to be developed are as follow;

- i. Enyana – Olukula road; this road connect four schools namely; Enyana Combined School, Olukeno Primary School, Oshikuni Primary School, Olukula Combined School, Olukula Clinic, and Olukula Community Project,
  - ii. Okamanya – Omboloka road; this road connect Ondema Combined School, Onam'tadiva San Community Camp, Nangolo Mbumba Combined School, Omboloka Clinic and Omboloka Police Station,
  - iii. Oidiva – Ekoka – Ekonghola road; this road connect Oidiva Combined School, Ekoka Combined School, Ekoka Clinic, Ekoka San Community Camp, and thereafter, connect Oshikoto region via Ekonghola road,
  - iv. DR 3666 Onepandaulo – Ondjele road; this road connect three regions namely; Kavango West, Ohangwena, and Oshikoto region, and once it is developed, it will relief so many Namibians in those three regions amongst others,
  - v. Onehanga – Olukula road; all clinics in the Okongo Constituency (Olukula, Omboloka and Ekoka) do not have access roads, health workers and patients are suffering, and patients including pregnant women, children and elders suffer to be transported from those clinic to the main hospital in Okongo.
- b) Requested Government through the line Ministry to consider drilling more deep boreholes at designated areas in the Okongo Constituency to provide access to water for the community members and for their livestock. The requested boreholes should cover three Clinics in the Constituency (Olukula, Omboloka and Ekoka clinic) that do not have portable water and limits the effective and efficient operations of such clinics. They further request the deep boreholes to be drilled at designated community fields

- (Agronomic) for the community members to produce their own food using borehole water instead of depending and relying on government through drought relief food.
- c) Requested Ministry of Health and Social Services to look into the matter of limited Doctors at the Okongo State Hospital, including the issue of private Doctors prescribing more medicine than required leading to overdosing of among some patients, as well as the issue of private vendors selling medicine to community members, discouraging them to visit hospital and establish whether this trend of selling medicine privately need to be regulated or not,
  - d) Requested Ministry of Education to consider renovating and developing some schools in the Constituency to the required standard to avoid children to be taught under thatched hats. In addition, there is a dare need of language laboratory, computer and science laboratory for effective teaching and learning in the Okongo Constituency. Furthermore, members of the Constituency proposed Platoon Teaching System that will enable the Government to create more employment for graduate Teachers who are still unemployed,
  - e) The Constituency requested Government to come up with a law that prohibit natural resources to be exported in raw form. They proposed raw material to be processed in Namibia and in return to create job for Namibians,
  - f) Requested Government through the line Ministry to build a disability center close to Okongo State Hospital for some people living with disability who find it difficult to access health care facilities from their respective residences to be accommodated near the hospital,
  - g) Requested Government through the Ministry responsible for Veterans to fast-track the process of paying out the approved projects of Veterans while they are still alive, as well as to consider transferring such fund to their dependents once they are no more,
  - h) Requested Government to consider declaring state of emergency on drought for people in Constituency to start receiving the drought relief food.

#### **4.4 OMUNDAUNGILO CONSTITUENCY**

##### **4.4.1 CHALLENGES**

The Omundaungilo Constituency which is considered to be war zone during the Liberation Struggle was visited on the 22 August 2023 and they expressed the following challenges;

- a) Some villages in the Constituency are confronted by a challenge of unavailability of portable water for both human consumption and for livestock. There are, however, few shallow boreholes but their water are salty. In addition, there are not earth dams in the area which can store rain water for animal consumption,
- b) There is a challenge of inadequate road infrastructure and access road to schools and clinics,
- c) There is poor communication network, television and radio network in the Omundaungilo Constituency,
- d) There is large number of youth unemployment in the Constituency and the sense of hopelessness among the youth is very high,
- e) There are only two clinics in the Constituency and they are far from each other and community members have to travel long distances to access health care services,
- f) There is no boarding Secondary School in the Constituency making it difficult for learners to travel long distances for secondary education,
- g) Considering that the Omundaungilo Constituency is close to the border with Angola, and is classified as war zone during the Liberation Struggle, there are still more Veterans with approved project but they are not yet paid. In addition, there are still more people who actively and persistently participated in the Liberation Struggle up to its logical end but they are not yet recognized,
- h) There is a large number of stateless people without national documents, and this situation has denied such people access to social grand support and other benefit from the Government. However, some of such people are claimed to have voters cards,
- i) There are cases of old people that are known within the community and supposed to be getting the old age pension, but their Identity Documents are wrong, reflecting that they are much younger as opposed to their correct ages. This situation is worrisome and need dedicated efforts by Government to resolve it,
- j) There are a lot broken chairs around schools that are just packed outside without any plan for repair or be auctioned among community members, a situation that require an urgent intervention. In addition, the community expressed concerns that Government has passed a policy that make provision for free education in Namibia, however, parents and guardians are still forced to buy stationaries and furniture for schools which is claimed to be unaffordable to some less privileged people.

#### **4.4.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY**

The members of the Omundaungilo Constituency requested the Government to consider the following for their Constituency;

- a) Requested Government to consider drilling more deep boreholes to enable the Constituency members to have access to portable water for both human and animal consumption. In addition, they also requested for earth dams to be dug at designated areas to harvest more water for animal consumption and for small scale agriculture in the community,
- b) Requested Government to consider constructing additional access roads to the existing clinics and schools to smoothen access to these facilities,
- c) Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to consider making some provision for communication network, radio and television towers in the constituency to relief community members who are left out by these important communication coverages,
- d) Ministry of Education to consider building at least one boarding Secondary School in the Constituency to make it easy for learners from the surrounding communities to access secondary education,
- e) Requested Government through the Ministry responsible for Veterans to fast-track the process of paying out the approved projects of Veterans, and to make effort of registering and recognizing those that were left out during the previous registration process,
- f) Government through the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security to look into the issue of stateless people at Omundaungilo Constituency, including those that are known to be old but their Identity documents are reflecting that they are young,
- g) Ministry of education to consider collecting all broken chairs around schools in Omundaungilo for repairs and distributed back to the schools in need of chairs.

#### **4.5 EPEMBE CONSTITUENCY**

##### **4.5.1 CHALLENGES**

The Epembe Constituency is one of the twelve (12) Constituency of the Ohangwena Region located at the remoteness of the area bordering with Okankolo Constituency of the Oshikoto region at the Southern side, Omundaungilo Constituency at the north, Oshikunde Constituency at the East and Eenhana Constituency at the Western side. The Constituency has sixty (60)

villages and has more than 18 thousand inhabitants according to the 2011 census population report. Majority of the people in the Constituency are communal farmers and they depend of crop and animal husbandry for survival.

The Epembe Constituency which is also considered to be war zone during the Liberation Struggle was visited on the 23 August 2023 and they expressed the following challenges;

- a) The Epembe Constituency like all other Constituencies operates at the grassroots level without a budget. The little budget for the Regional Council is not enough and it's just planned for the capital projects. They are serving the community without anything, and when it comes to the daily demands as a results of emergencies such as burning of houses, and other man-made and natural-made emergencies or lack of food and water for example, the Constituency Office as a first responder is unable to assist because there is no budget,
- b) There is a challenge of inadequate road infrastructure and access road to schools and clinics in the Epembe Constituency. The Community claimed that their Constituency has only one gravel road (DR 3602 Oushake/Elundu – Okankolo road) constructed in in 1976 to connect the military bases of the enemy forces during the apartheid regime. This road is used by a large population from Ohangwena and Oshikoto regions as it connects the two regions together,
- c) There is a water crisis in the Epembe Constituency. There are villages that do not have access to clean water due low pressure and water from the wells are salty. These villages includes amongst others; Oshipya, Oluungu, Omupanda 1 and 2, Eeshi, Ohamenya, Pukalani, Oneifiyo, and Onamudidi,
- d) There is no Secondary School or Boarding School in the Epembe Constituency despite their large population. More Learners are taught in Oshindonga as their first language at various Schools from Lower Primary and Upper Primary levels and partly Secondary levels, however, once Learners go to Secondary level in the Region (Grade 11 and 12) they will be forced to be taught in Oshikanyama as their first language and this challenge results in low marks and contribute to high failure rate in the region,
- e) There is a challenge of drought in the Constituency. Due to poor rainfall this year, there was poor harvest and people are starving including their livestock,
- f) The Constituency has a challenge of poor communication network coverage and this challenge has limited the community members including youth to make use of benefits that come with information and communication technology,

- g) The Constituency is confronted by a high rate of unemployment for both youth and middle aged.

#### **4.5.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY**

The members of the Epembe Constituency requested the Government to consider the following for their Constituency;

- a) The Epembe Constituency is requesting Government to consider allocating budget to be managed at the Constituency level in the form of Constituency Development Fund. This fund will help the Constituency to attend to critical emergency issues as the first responder in the Community. It will further help to implement small agricultural projects and self-income generating projects in the Community,
- b) The Constituency is requesting Government to consider upgrading the DR 3602 Oushake – Okankolo road (57km) to a bitumen standard. The Constituency further request Government to consider fast-trucking the implementation of constructing the proclaimed new gravel roads such as; DR 4172 Epembe – Omuhongo (24km) via Onduludia – Oshidute. Like the Okongo Constituency, the Epembe Constituency also strongly requested Government to consider the construction of DR 3666 Ondjele – Onepandaulo gravel road that will connect Kavango West with Ohangwena and Oshikoto regions amongst others,
- c) The Constituency is requesting the Government to consider establishing the water reticulation plant at Epembe that will increase water pressure to be able to reach the remote villages in the far East of the Constituency. In addition the Constituency is requesting Government to consider drilling deep boreholes to tap water from the aquifer two at designated places in the Constituency,
- d) Government to consider upgrading the Epembe clinic to the required standard. The current clinic is very small, with no space for consultation, limited privacy, and with no running water and other basic facilities. Cases are referred to Onandjokwe, Eenhana and Okongo which is very far and expensive for community members. The other clinic at Omuhongo does not have an access road and vehicles get stack in the deep sand as they try to reach the clinic. It also need to be upgraded,
- e) The Constituency is requesting Government to consider building a Secondary School in the Constituency which is home to more than twenty two (22) schools. This will help the Learners who have to go look High Schools or Secondary Schools where for

example they will end up being taught Oshikwanyama as their first language as opposed to Oshindonga, contributing to high failure rate of first language,

- f) The Constituency is requesting Government to declare state of emergency on drought, register the communities severely affected by drought and start distributing drought relief food as soon as possible,
- g) Government to consider mounting a network tower at designated area in the Constituency where there is poor communication network coverage,
- h) Government to consider funding projects that will create employment opportunity in the Constituency. This include coming up with green scheme projects, supplied with water from deep boreholes for community members to produce their own food and eliminate hunger and poverty within the Community. Community members are willing to work on these proposed project and land can be identified through Traditional Authority of their jurisdiction, all they need is deep borehole water and support from Government in terms of fertilizers, seeds, equipment, supervision, and training amongst others.

## **4.6 OSHIKUNDE CONSTITUENCY**

### **4.6.1 CHALLENGES**

The Oshikunde Constituency is one of the twelve (12) Constituency of the Ohangwena Region located at the remoteness of the area bordering with Epembe Constituency at the Southern side, Nehale IyaMpingana of Oshikoto region at the South East, Omundaungilo Constituency at the north west, Okongo Constituency at the East, and Cunene Province of Angola at the Northern side. The Constituency has eighty (80) villages, twenty three (23) schools, and it is home to more than twenty two thousand (22 000) inhabitants according to the 2011 census population report. Majority of the people in the Constituency are communal farmers and they depend of crop and animal husbandry for survival.

The Oshikunde Constituency which is also considered to be war zone during the Liberation Struggle was visited on the 23 August 2023 and they expressed the following challenges;

- a) The Constituency is confronted by a challenge of youth unemployment. Most of the youths are unemployed, with little access to information and limited job opportunities.
- b) The Constituency is challenged by limited access to health care. There is only one clinic in the Constituency at the Oshikunde Settlement which is not even at the central point of the Constituency. Community members of the Constituency are still travelling long



distances to access health care either at Okongo or Eenhana State hospitals. The clinic at Onamafila is still under construction,

- c) The Constituency is challenged by limited communication network due to limited network towers. In addition, there are limited or no network coverage in some parts of the Constituency,
- d) There is a challenge of road infrastructure in the Constituency. Most of the communities live in remote areas and only a 4x4 vehicles can reach at those places due to heavy sand and the absence of access roads. This situation makes it difficult for community members to have access to the required basic services. In some parts of the Constituency, donkeys are still the means of transports,
- e) The Constituency has limited access to clean water. The Oshikunde Constituency residents rely only on boreholes and earth dams. Some borehole water in the Constituency are salty and are not fit for human consumption. Some people resorts drink from the wells which is equally a health hazard,
- f) The Constituency is challenged by drought which came a result of poor rainfall. Both people and animals are in dire need food support,
- g) There is no Police Station or Sub – Station in the Constituency and for the residents to get Police services, they either have to travel to Okongo or Eenhana which are miles away and costly,
- h) The Constituency is challenged by incidences of residents especially from the son Community who do not have national documents. Government has made concerted efforts on this matter, however, there are still people without national documents due to various reasons and challenges.

#### **4.6.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY**

The members of the Oshikunde Constituency requested the Government to consider the following for their Constituency;

- a) The Constituency requests Government to consider projects especially agricultural related project and green schemes to employ majority of youth including able Namibians to contribute to the food basket of the country. There is enough underground water and land for this purpose, and what is requested from Government is the support in a form of infrastructural development, equipment, training and development. Government is thus requested to initiate such projects that have potential of creating

more job opportunity and contribute to food security as well as to bring hope to these unemployed youth in the country,

- b) Government to consider fast – tracking the completion of Onamafila clinic to cater for the residents living in that surrounding areas. The access road and portable water should also be considered at this clinic for efficient and effective operation this health care center. It is also requested for an additional clinic to be constructed at the designated place in the Constituency to cater residents who travel long distances to access health care services and some of them are reported to have died on their way to hospital due to bad sandy roads and lack of public transport,
- c) The Constituency is requesting Government to consider mounting a network towers at designated areas in the Constituency where there is poor communication network,
- d) The Constituency is requesting Government to consider building access gravel roads to connect public places such as schools in the Constituency. There are twenty three (23) schools in the Constituency and majority of them have no access roads,
- e) The Constituency is requesting Government to fast – track the initiative of rural water supply for the Community to have access to clean water. The Community members are requesting more deep boreholes to tap water from the aquifer two to provide safe and sufficient water to the residents,
- f) The Constituency is requesting Government to start registering the communities severely affected by drought and start distributing drought relief food as soon as possible,
- g) The Constituency is requesting Government through the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigrations, Safety and Security to consider building a Police Station in the Oshikunde Constituency to bring Police service close to the people,
- h) The Constituency is requesting Government to continue with its efforts of registering the stateless people in the Constituency to ensure they all have National Documents and for the qualified individuals to start receiving the social support from Government.

## 4.7 OHANGWENA CONSTITUENCY

### 4.7.1 CHALLENGES

The Ohangwena Constituency was visited on 24 August 2023 and they expressed the following challenges;

- a) The Constituency expressed challenges of delayed capital projects due to bureaucracy between the line Ministries, bidding process, and poor consultations with the Constituency on the ground. Almost everything is done in Windhoek with limited involvement of the Constituency and challenges on the ground are left unattended due to this bureaucratic process centralization,
- b) The Constituency expressed the concern of low water pressure that makes it difficult for water to reach the furthest side of the Constituency,
- c) The Constituency is challenged by drought which came as a result of poor rainfall. Both people and animals are in dire need food support from the Government,
- d) The Constituency highlighted that there is poor network coverage in the area and some network towers are not providing the required and/or sufficient network coverage. The Okatope and Omphedi towers were cited as reference on this matter,
- e) The Constituency applauded Government for ensuring that there are Health Care Facilities in the area namely; Ohangwena Clinic, Okatope Clinic, and Engela District Hospital, however, you find incidents where there are no medicines in their pharmacies and patients are referred to private pharmacies. Members of the Constituency claimed that private pharmacies are expensive for some elders and less privileged individuals,
- f) The Constituency expressed concern over a project called “DREAM Namibia” which is funded by American Government (PEPFAR) and it works with Government of Namibia through Ministries such as; Ministry of Health and Social Services, Ministry of Gender Equality and Social Welfare, Ministry of Education and, Arts and Culture, and Ministry of Sport, Youth and National Service. The Constituency is alleging that this DREAM project is teaching sex education in schools and it bring confusion by promoting social ills in the community. They thus expressed concern over this project stating that it is not accepted in their Constituency. Okatope Junior Secondary School was cited as reference where this project was taught among learners and parents took action to stop it.

*“The DREAM project “Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS – Free, Mentored and Safe” seek to reduce new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women.*

*Preventing HIV in adolescent girls and young women means empowering them with social protection and safe space, education and economic skills, and access to family planning and reproductive health services. DREAMS uses a core package of evidence – based, multi – sectoral intervention that are proven to reduce new HIV infection among adolescent girls and young women. Initially, the DREMS project is planned to be implemented in five districts in three Regions of Namibia (Khomas region” Windhoek district”, Oshikoto region “Omuhiya, Onandjokwe and Tsumeb districts” and Zambezi region “Katima Mulilo urban and Sibinda districts”.*

- g) The Constituency is confronted by a challenge of some residents who do not have national documents. Government has made concerted efforts on this matter, however, the focus is more on the Son Community, and registration of ordinary people who need national documents is always delayed.

#### **4.7.2 REQUEST BY THE CONSTITUENCY**

The members of the Ohangwena Constituency requested the Government to consider the following for their Constituency;

- a) The Constituency requested Government to consider the true aspect of decentralization of its services to the Regional level to avoid cases like capital project that are executed in the Constituencies but a run and administered from Windhoek with less involvement of the Region and Constituency where the project is taking place,
- b) The Constituency requested Government through the Ministry Agriculture, Water and Land Reform including NAWTER consider increasing the water pressure in the Ohangwena Constituency because some community members’ tap are dry due to low pressure. The Constituency is also requesting the same Ministry to consider constructing some earth dams in the Constituency to harvest rain and flood water that always go to waste. They recommended that the water to be harvested through earth dams could be used for green schemes and community gardens in the Constituency for food production by community members,
- c) The Constituency is requesting Government to start registering the communities severely affected by drought and start distributing drought relief food for people and livestock as soon as possible,
- d) Requested Government through the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to consider strengthening the communication towers in the Constituency particularly the Okatope and Omphedi communication towers,

- e) Requested Government through the Ministry of Health and Social Services to ensure there are enough stock of medicines at the clinics and State and/or District Hospitals to avoid referring patients to private pharmacies which is expensive for some elders and less privileged people,
- f) Requested Government to investigate the issue of DREAMS project which is alleged to be promoting social ills and causing confusion between Teachers, Learners and Parents in the Ohangwena Constituency,
- g) The Constituency is further requesting Government through the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture to consider giving more power to the school Principals in order to empower them to effectively manage schools. They need power for example to discipline Teachers and Staff members at schools including power to expel a Learner from school as opposed to what is happening now where school Principals have no power to handle incidents of that nature at their respective schools compared to private schools,
- h) The Constituency is requesting Government to continue with its efforts of registering the stateless people in the Constituency (both Son Community and ordinary Community members) to ensure they all have national documents and for the qualified individuals to start receiving the social support from Government,
- i) The Constituency requested Government to consider remunerating the Traditional Leaders especially those that are not currently in the category that is gazetted for remuneration because they too perform important function under difficult circumstances in their respective community and villages they lead,
- j) The Constituency requested Government to reconsider the criteria used to determine public servants who should qualify for Bush Allowance because they claimed that it is currently bias and not fairly considered.

## **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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 the 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

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 amongst 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 Ohangwena and Oshikoto Regions in the Constituencies that are largely affected such as; Omundaungilo, Oshikunde, Okongo, Nehale lyaMpingna, Okankolo, Eengodi, Epembe and Eenhana Constituency amongst others. The same initiative should be rolled out to other needy Regions as well,
- d) Office of the Prime Minister to declare the state of emergency on drought, register the communities severely affected by drought and start distributing drought relief food for people and animal as soon as possible,
- e) 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 line Ministry is requested to fast – truck 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 lyaMphingana 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 urgently need to be developed to the required standard to relief community members who continue to suffer through traveling on his risky road.

- f) Government through the Ministry of Education, Art and Culture to consider building a Secondary School (Mission School) in the Epembe Constituency which is home to more than twenty two (22) schools. This will help the Learners who have to go look for High Schools or Secondary Schools where for example they will end up being taught Oshikwanyama as their first language as opposed to Oshindonga and vice versa, contributing to high failure rate of first language at Grade 12. The same consideration of Secondary School is strongly recommended to be considered for Omundaungilo Constituency, Oshikunde Constituency and Engela Constituency,
- g) The Government through the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to deploy adequate communication network towers at designated areas including Omundaungilo, Oshikunde, Epembe, Ohangwena, and Nehale lyaMpingana 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,
- h) 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,
- i) Strongly recommend to Government through the Ministry of Defence 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,
- i) 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,


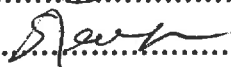

- j) It is recommended for the Deputy Speaker’s outreach programme to be considered as an important activity that should be carried out regularly to promote the concept of taking Parliament closer to the people and to explain the work of Legislature in relation to the other Organs of the State, focusing more on legislation, oversight and representation.

**6. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the Deputy Speaker’s outreach programme to the Ohangwena region to promote the initiative of taking Parliament closer to the people was a success. The delegation successfully explained the work of Legislature in relation to the other Organs of the State, focusing more on legislation, oversight and representation.

The delegation further engaged the local, regional, traditional, church, community leaders as well as local citizens on service delivery and listen to their views on how they would like to be served, as well as the pertinent challenges confronting the community members on the ground. The Constituency members shared their challenges and requested the Deputy Speaker’s delegation to take their request to the Government through various Ministries, Offices and Agencies through tabling a report in Parliament for discussion, adoption and, thereafter, for implementation by the responsible institutions.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER’S DELEGATION:**

- 1. Hon Loide Kasingo..... 
- 2. Hon Sebastian Karupu..... 
- 3. Hon Jennifer Van Den Heever, and..... 
- 4. Hon Paula Kooper..... 