



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

**MOTIVATION STATEMENT
VOTE 38: WATER**



**HON. ANNA SHIWEDA, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
DEPUTY MINISTER**

08 APRIL 2024

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee **Honourable Members**

I have the honour to motivate **Vote 38: Water** for the 2024/2025 Financial Year for your consideration and approval.

1. Recently on the margins of World Water Day Commemoration which was held in Kunene Region, the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, Honourable Carl Schlettwein, observed, and rightly so, that access to water and sanitation is a fundamental human right. This is in line with the Government of the Republic of Namibia's commitment to achieving equitable access to and the sustainable development of freshwater resources by all sectors of the national population, particularly for the rural and urban poor, in order to promote long term social and economic development of Namibia.



Photo: Hon. Carl Schlettwein (MAWLR Minister), Hon. Pohamba Shifeta (MEFT Minister), Ms Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata (MAWLR ED) and other dignitaries at the 2024 World Water Day and Wetlands Day commemoration in Opuwo

2. As we all know, **Article 100 of the Namibian Constitution** stipulates that all natural resources belong to the State. In this regard, Government has the overall responsibility for water resources management in the entire country. In addition to being an essential element for agricultural production, nutrition, human health and sanitation, water also enables job creation opportunities in all key sectors across the economy.
3. Furthermore, the Government has enacted the **Water Resources Management Act No 11 of 2013**, to provide priority to water supply and sanitation as a strategy to eradicate poverty and accelerate economic growth as well as to achieve the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal No. 6 namely; **"Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all"**

- This is a realisation that as one of the driest countries south of the Sahara, Namibia is particularly sensitive to climate change and its effects on rainfall. Therefore, as a scarce resource, water need to be carefully and sustainably managed through cooperation with other riparian countries on the shared rivers. Furthermore, the efforts of such management should be boosted and supported by an effective automated water data and information management system.



Photo: Namibia , through MAWLR, hosted the 2023 AMCOW SANITATION CONFERENCE in Swakopmund

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members**

- As I stated earlier, findings from our assessment that I referred to when I motivated for Vote 37 indicate that as of 18 March 2024, the **aggregate water content of the dams stood at 55% of the dams' capacity compared to 69.7 percent in the corresponding period last year.** This represents a **14.7% decrease** in the dam levels. The water levels of most dams is currently low, and only **Neckartal and Friedenau dams were above 50%**, with their levels of full capacity standing at **84% and 55%**, respectively. This is a result of the erratic and sporadic rainfall received this season and insufficient water inflow. We remain hopeful that current rainfall continues so that it can replenish our dam levels across the country.
- This critical water situation calls for concerted efforts and for the Government to focus its attention and resources towards desalinating sea water with a view to ensure water supply security in the country.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
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I am motivating a total budget of **One Billion, Thirty-Nine Million, and Twenty-Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1,039,023,000)** allocated to **Vote 38** for the 2024/25 Financial Year. This budget represents an **increase of 38.9%** from the **Six Hundred and Thirty-Four Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 634,773,000)** which was allocated during 2023/2024 Financial Year.

7. This allocation consists of **Two Hundred and forty-Nine Million and Twenty-Three Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$ 249,023,000)** for Operational Expenditure representing **24%** of the total budget allocation. In addition, the proposed development budget amounts to **Seven Hundred and Ninety Million Namibia Dollar (N\$ 790,000,000)** which represent **76%** of the total budget allocation to this Vote.



Photo: Prime Minister Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila officially handed over the second largest borehole in Ohangwena Region at the belated 34th independence celebration that took place at Ohamutwetautende village in Epembe constituency.

Overall, **One Hundred and Thirty-Nine Million, One Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety-Seven Namibia Dollars (N\$ 139,137,597) (13.4 percent)** is devoted to Integrated Water Resource Management; **Eight Hundred and Sixty-Seven Million, Eighty Five Thousand, and Four Hundred and Three Namibia Dollars (N\$ 867,085,403) (83.4 percent)** is earmarked for Water Infrastructure Development, Maintenance and Rehabilitation while **Thirty-Two Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 32,800,000) (3.2 percent)** is for Sanitation Infrastructure Development.

8. In line with the Ministerial Medium Term Plan, the water sector is implementing three (3) key programmes, namely:

- (i) Integrated Water Resource Management
- (ii) Water Infrastructure Development, Maintenance and Rehabilitation, and
- (iii) Sanitation Infrastructure Development

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In elaborating programme by programme: allow me to provide a synopsis of main achievements that were attained, and the specific activities and development projects proposed for funding under these programmes.

9. Programme 1. Integrated Water Resource Management

This Programme consists of the following line functions:

- (i) Upgrade and equip the Water Analysis Laboratory
- (ii) Water Resource Management Project
- (iii) Geo-hydrological investigation in the Cuvelai-Etoshia Basin and
- (iv) Quantification of Underground Resources of Namibia

The objective of these Programmes is to ensure water supply security through the sustainable management of the available water resources.

9.1 During the 2023/2024 financial year, an amount of **Fifty One Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$ 51,991,000)**. This Programme has been allocated an amount of **One Hundred and Thirty-Nine Million, One Hundred and Thirty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Ninety-Seven Namibia Dollars (N\$ 139,137,597)**.

Under this **Programme**, the Ministry will continue to implement the following Projects:

9.1.1 Upgrade and equip the Water Analysis Laboratory to ensure water quality in all the corners of Namibia.

9.1.2 Water Resource Management Project. Under this project, the Ministry will continue to develop strategies, policies and legislation aimed at protecting water resources and sustainable management and development including the development of the Water Master Plan.

9.1.3 The feasibility study for the Noordoewer/Vioolsdrift Dam along the Lower Orange River will be completed to ensure water security for the users in the south particularly those that are solely depended on the Lower Orange River for the water supply.

9.1.4 Another Feasibility study that have been awarded is for the extension of the two canals to Namibia from Angola in the area of Ndombodola and Onamakude

9.1.5 Implementation of the Geo-hydrological investigation in the Cuvelai-Etosa Basin and Quantification of Underground Resources of Namibia, will continue with the assistance from the German Government.

As you may be aware, Honourable Members, Namibia is sharing her perennial rivers and other water sources with neighbouring countries. For this reason, the Ministry will continue to jointly manage the transboundary shared water in order to ensure that Namibia's share from those sources is secured.

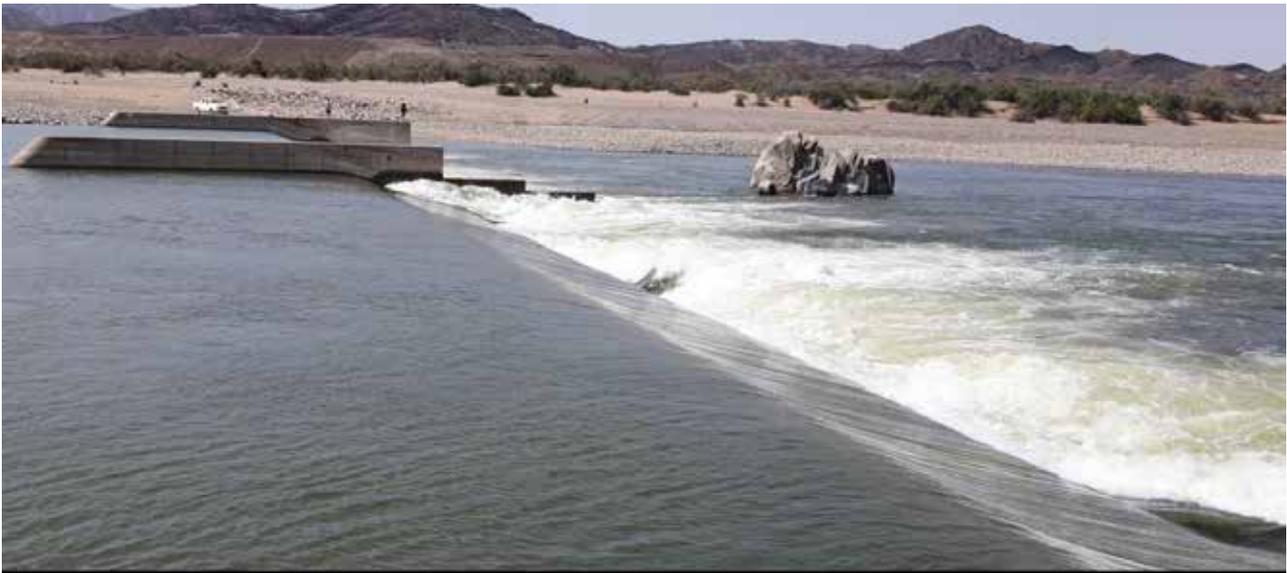


Photo: The shared Orange River

10. Programme 2. Water Infrastructure Development, Maintenance and Rehabilitation

10.1 This Programme comprises of the following line functions:

10.1.1. Community Based Management Water Infrastructure Project,

10.1.2. Rural Water Supply Coverage Project,

10.1.3. Namibia Water Sector Support Programme (NWSSP)

10.1.4. Construction of Earth Dams, Modernization of Traditional Wells, Pans for Livestock Drinking Project

10.1.5. Construction of Water Supply Security Infrastructure Project

10.1.6. Bulk Water Supply Project

10.1.7. Construction of Large Dams, Desalination and Provision of Water to larger settlements Project

10.2 During the 2023/2024 financial year, an amount of **Five Hundred and Seventy-Two Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Seven Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$ 572 797 000)** was allocated to this Programme and the following activities were carried out:

10.2.1 Thirteen (13) short pipelines were constructed in the following Regions:

- a)** Oshana (1),
- b)** Omusati (4),
- c)** Kavango West (1),
- d)** Zambezi (6) and
- e)** Erongo (1).

10.2.2 Two (2) pipelines were rehabilitated and upgraded, one in Ohangwena Region and one Oshana Region;

10.2.3 The Ministry completed the Kuiseb Collector 2 Schwarzekuppe Swakopmund Phase 3 and Omdel-Wlotzkasbaken pipeline replacement;

10.2.4 One Thousand, Four hundred and Thirty-Four (1 434) Private Off-Takes (POT) were connected to the individual household in the following Regions;

- a)** Ohangwena (500),
- b)** Oshana (174) and
- c)** Oshikoto (675) and
- d)** Omusati (85).

10.2.5 Drilling and test pumping of three hundred and forty-one (341) boreholes:

- a)** 27 boreholes in Ohangwena Region;
- b)** 18 boreholes in Otjozondjupa Region;
- c)** 38 boreholes in Omaheke Region;
- d)** 39 boreholes in Oshikoto Region;
- e)** 11 boreholes in Erongo Region;
- f)** 9 boreholes in Kunene Region;
- g)** 12 boreholes in Hardap Region;
- h)** 60 boreholes in //Kharas Region;
- i)** 14 boreholes in Omusati Region;
- j)** 22 boreholes in Khomas Region;
- k)** 18 boreholes in Zambezi Region;
- l)** 31 boreholes in Kavango West Region and 42 boreholes in Kavango East Region.

I wish to highlight that of the total boreholes that were drilled in Kavango West and Kavango East Regions, **29 boreholes were specifically drilled in support of crocodile-prone affected villages.**

In addition, the Ministry **installed one hundred and twelve (112)** boreholes in the following Regions:

- a) Ohangwena (14),
- b) Omusati (5),
- c) Kavango East (18),
- d) Kavango West (21),
- e) Zambezi (11),
- f) Omaheke (3),
- g) Hardap (5),
- h) Kunene (12),
- i) //Kharas (6) and
- j) Erongo (17)



Photo: Drilling activities in Ohangwena Region

10.2.6 Furthermore, the Ministry rehabilitated forty-two (42) water points infrastructures in the following Regions:

- a) Ohangwena (9),
- b) Kavango East (2),
- c) Zambezi (4),
- d) Hardap (15),
- e) Kunene (5) and,
- f) Erongo (7) Region.

10.2.7 The Ministry modernised nine (9) traditional wells in different Regions namely:

- a) Omusati (2),
- b) Ohangwena (2),
- c) Kavango West (2) and
- d) Kunene Region (3)



Photo: Transforming traditional wells to modern boreholes

10.2.8 The Ministry remain committed to implement strategies and programmes aimed at harvesting the flood water in flood prone Regions. In this regard, during the 2023/2024 Financial Year, twelve (12) earth dams were constructed in the following Regions as part of the water harvesting strategy:

- a) Oshana (8),
- b) Ohangwena (2),
- c) //Kharas (1), and
- d) Hardap (1).

10.2.9 Furthermore, in an effort to support the creativity and ingenuity of young professionals, the Ministry embarked on an accelerated Programme to enhance research and thus organised the first Namibia Regional Water Symposium (NRWS) in North-Central Regions with the theme: “**Water for All: Achieving Sustainability and Security**”. The Second Regional Water Symposium is earmarked for Southern Regions in this new Financial Year.

10.3 For 2024/2025 Financial Year, this Programme is allocated an amount of **Eight Hundred and Sixty-Seven Million, Eighty Five Thousand, and Four Hundred and Three Namibia Dollars (N\$ 867,085,403)**. I wish to indicate that in addition to this allocation, this Programme also received funds to the tune of **One Billion, One Hundred and Twenty Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$ 1,120,791, 000)** from the African Development Bank.

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In order to meet the 6th Sustainable Development Goal on access to water and sanitation to all, rural water supply needs to be strengthened. This will enable it to cover the underserved rural communities in villages, small towns, schools, rural health centres, resettlement farms and communal farmers with the objective to contribute to an increased and sustained access. To contribute towards the attainment of SDG #6, the Ministry will execute various activities under the following projects:

10.3.1 *Community Based Management Water Infrastructure Project,*

Under this Project, the Ministry will implement the following activities:

10.3.1.1 Drilling, pump testing and installation of forty (40) boreholes in the following Regions:

- a)** Kavango East (6),
- b)** Zambezi (6),
- c)** Oshikoto (2),
- d)** Omusati (3),
- e)** Ohangwena (3),
- f)** Otjozondjupa (2),
- g)** Erongo (3),
- h)** Omaheke (6),
- i)** //Kharas (3),
- j)** Hardap (3) and
- k)** Kunene (3) Region.

10.3.1.2 Installation of twenty-seven (27) existing boreholes in the following Regions:

- a)** //Kharas (2),
- b)** Hardap (2),
- c)** Kavango East (2),
- d)** Kavango West (5),
- e)** Zambezi (2),
- f)** Oshikoto (2)
- g)** Ohangwena (4),
- h)** Otjozondjupa (2),
- i)** Erongo (3) and
- j)** Kunene (3) Region;

- 10.3.1.3** Procurement of works for the Cleaning/Rehabilitation of six (6) boreholes in the following Regions,
- a) Kavango West (2),
 - b) Kavango East (2) and
 - c) Zambezi Region (2);
- 10.3.1.4** Supply, delivery and construction and/or rehabilitation of ten (10) boundary fencing infrastructures in Oshikoto, Omaheke, Otjozondjupa, Hardap and Kunene Regions.
- 10.3.1.5** Procurement of Consultancy Services for a feasibility study to develop water resources in the Tsumkwe area in Otjozondjupa Region.
- 10.3.2** *Rural Water Supply Coverage Project,*
- Under this Project, the Ministry will execute the following activities:
- 10.3.2.1** The Ministry plans to engage service providers for Consultancy Services for a feasibility study for construction of a 30 km pipeline between Bunya and Ntara in Kavango West Region, a 30km pipeline between Rundu and Shambyu in Kavango East Region as well as the construction of Ground and Surface Water Supply Scheme at litapa - Okeeholongo Phase - 2 (Okeeholongo – Utsathima) with a base population of 274 and 566 people.
- 10.3.2.2** Procurement of **One Hundred and Five (105), Water Tanks** with the capacity of **10,000 Litres** in order to replace old water tanks at various water points across the country.
- 10.3.3** *Namibia Water Sector Support Programme (NWSSP)*
This programme is jointly funded by the Government and the African Development Bank, to implement water and sanitation projects in Namibia.
- 10.3.3.1** Under this Programme, the Ministry is developing Rural Water Supply infrastructure focusing on the upgrading and construction of the following 8 rural water supply schemes: Ruacana South Water Supply Scheme, Otjombinde Water Supply Scheme, Katima/Kongola WSS – Phase 3, King Kauluma Water Supply Scheme, Katima/Ngoma WSS – Phase 3, Katima -Ngoma WSS - Phase 4, Katima/Ngoma WSS – Reservoir and litaapa/Okeeholongo Water Supply Scheme Phase 2. The construction of some these infrastructure has commenced while others will start in the next few months.

10.3.4 Construction of Earth Dams, Modernization of Traditional Wells, Pans for Livestock Drinking Project

Under this Project, the Ministry will conduct the following activities:

10.3.4.1 The Ministry will expand the water harvesting initiative by **constructing 40 new earth dams** and **rehabilitating 14 existing ones**. I am pleased to confirm that **contracts for 30 of these new earth dams** have already been awarded. Excavation and construction of these dams is set to commence in the first quarter of this Financial Year.

10.3.4.2 In addition, the Ministry will collaborate with **the Road Contractor Company (RCC)** on the excavation and rehabilitation of earth dams across all Regions.

10.3.4.3 Furthermore, the Ministry is planning to undertake the excavation and reshaping of natural water canals to optimize water retention and distribution. The canals are as follow: Etaka canal; Oshigambo Channel; Mpungu-Nzinze Channel; Ndonga Linena-Ncaute; Bukalo Channel; Dreihuk; Oshakati-Yinakulu yOmadhiya canal and the Northern Border water harvesting canal.

We believe that these initiatives will significantly contribute to our overarching goal of improving water security and enhance resilience in the country.

10.3.5 *Construction of Water Supply Security Infrastructure Project*
In order to implement this project, an amount of **Four Hundred and Twenty-Two Million and Seven Hundred and Two Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$ 422,702,000)** is allocated. The Government will continue to implement critical water supply security projects at national level under the auspices of the **Cabinet Committee on Water Supply and Security (CCWSS)**, in line with the Presidential Directive and Harambee Prosperity Plans. The main planned activities under this project are:

10.3.5.1 The Construction of **Direct Potable Reclamation Plant (DPR2)** - the DPR2 project entails to construction a 20 Megalitre-per-day (MLD) direct potable reclamation plant. The plant will be constructed in two phases.

10.3.5.2 **Development of the Abenab Borehole and link it with the Eastern National Water Carrier (ENWC)** in order to harness this untapped source of water for supply to the Central Area of Namibia and en-route areas;

- 10.3.5.3 Development of Ohangwena No 2 Well Field (Omafo - Eenhana Extension)**, this entails the development of the first phase of Ohangwena II aquifer system to mainly cater for the water demand in an area between and including Oshandi and Eenhana; the ground-breaking is expected to commence in the middle of April 2024.
- 10.3.5.4** The Ministry will continue with the development of the **New Desalination Plant** at the coast as per the recommendations of the feasibility study, as well as taking-over and upgrading of the existing desalination plant of Orano at Wlotzkasbaken
- 10.3.5.5 Upgrading, modernisation and expansion of the Gammams & Otjomuise Wastewater Treatment Plants** to augment the water supply security of the Central Areas of Namibia
- 10.3.5.6 The extension of Oshakati and Rundu Purification Plants**
- 10.3.6** *Construction of Large Dams, Desalination and Provision of Water to larger settlements Project*

In regards to the Construction of Large Dams, Desalination and Provision of Water to larger settlements, the Ministry plans to:

- 10.3.6.1** Conduct a **Feasibility Study for another Desalination Plant** catering Northern Regions from Kunene, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Ohangwena and Kavango West Regions. A grant funding is being submitted to the African Development Bank in this regard.

11. Programme 3: Sanitation Infrastructure Development.

Sanitation remains a **high priority on the Government development agenda**. Therefore, the Ministry in collaboration with other stakeholders continues to implement the sanitation programme in order to ensure that all Namibians have access to quality sanitation facilities with a view to **eradicate open defecation** in our country.

Under this Programme, the Ministry is implementing one key project namely: **Rural and Urban Sanitation Infrastructure Development**.

11.1 During the 2023/2024 financial year, an amount of **Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Five Thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$ 9,985,000)** was allocated to this Programme and the following activities were carried out:

11.1.1 Construction of 2750 resilient, school gender segregated child friendly facilities, health centre facilities and public facilities for needy families,

11.1.2 Cabinet has approved the 2022-2027 National Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy aimed at increasing sanitation coverage across the country,

11.1.3 As part of our international commitment, Namibia successfully hosted the Seventh Edition of African Sanitation and Hygiene (AfricaSan7) Conference 2023 from 6-11 November 2023 at Swakopmund in Erongo Region.

11.2 This programme has been allocated an amount of **Thirty-Two Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$ 32,800,000)**. During the 2024/2025 Financial Year, the Ministry will implement the following activities:

11.2.1 The Ministry through the **Namibia Water Sector Support Programme (NWSSP)**, a Programme which is jointly funded by the Government and the African Development Bank, will continue to construct sanitation facilities by using in-house artisans and unemployed youth.

**Honourable chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members**

In conclusion, I wish to re-emphasise the importance and scarcity of water in our country and the need for Government to continue investing in water infrastructure development, with a view of ensuring water supply security for human beings, animals and industrial development. The Ministry remains committed to accelerate implementation of water development programmes and projects with the resources at its disposal.

Once more, I wish to reiterate my gratitude to Honourable Ipumbu Shiimi, Minister of Finance and Public Enterprise, Honourable Obeth Kandjoze, Director General of the National Planning Commission and their staff for considering our submission and increasing the allocation to this important vote. In the same vein, I would like to thank my Minister, Honourable Carl Schlettwein, for his guidance, leadership and direction. I will fail in my duties if I don't acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Executive Director, Ms Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata and the entire staff towards ensuring that all Namibians have access to safe and potable water.

With this motivation, I now call upon this August House to discuss, consider and approve the total budget request which amounts to **One Billion, Thirty-Nine Million, and Twenty-Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$1 039,023,000)** for Vote 38 for the 2024/25 Financial Year.

I therefore seek your support and approval for this proposed allocation.

I thank you for your kind attention.







REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
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