



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform

MOTIVATION STATEMENT

VOTE 38: WATER & MARINE RESOURCES

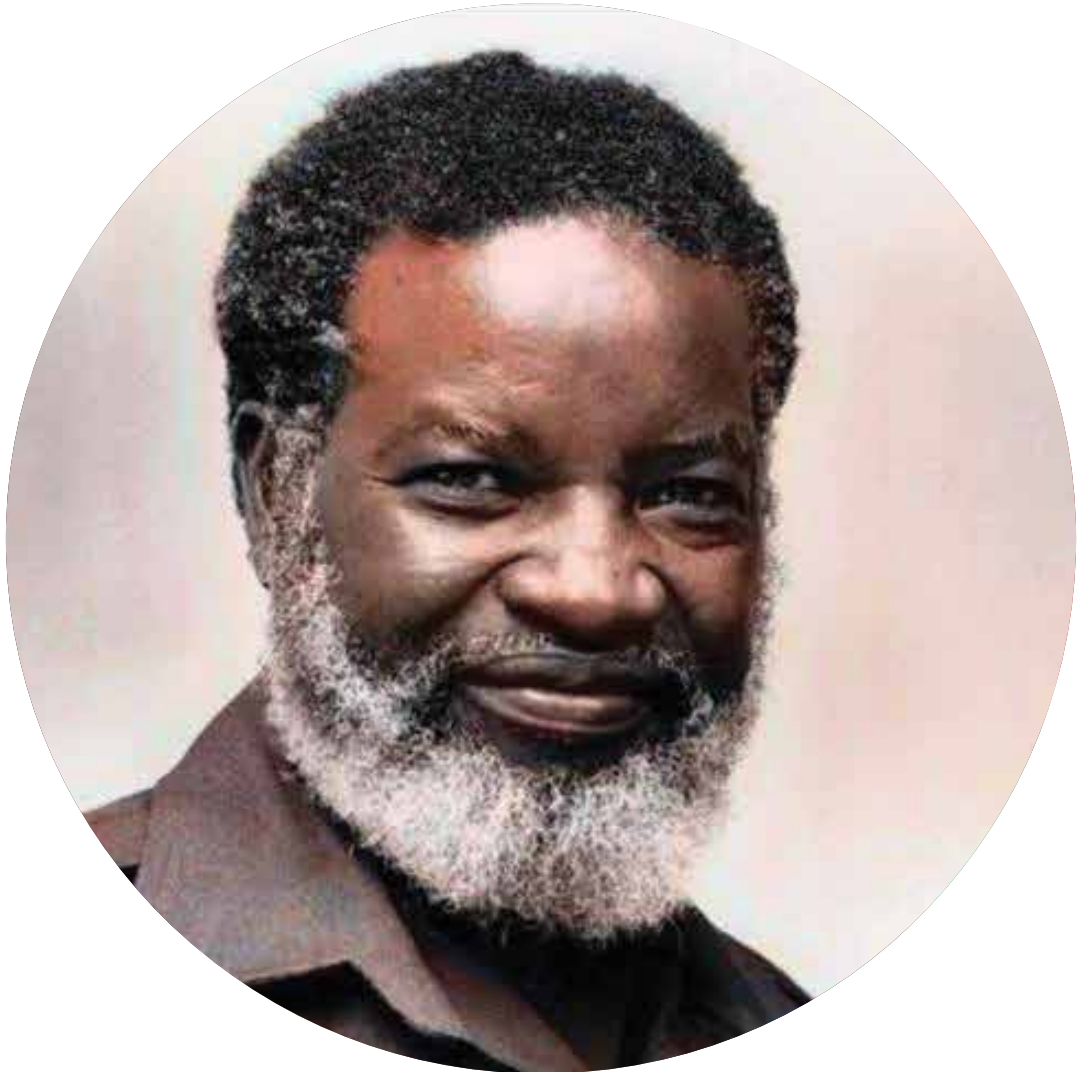
BY

HONOURABLE INGENESIA INGE ZAAMWANI, MP

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, WATER AND LAND REFORM

08 MAY 2025





His legacy continues to guide our efforts as we invest in bulk water infrastructure, expanding rural water supply and sanitation services, enhancing sustainable fisheries management, facilitating equitable access and sustainable utilisation of water and marine resources for the benefit of all Namibians.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

1. I have the privilege to stand before you to formally motivate the budget allocation for vote 38: Water and Marine Resources. Before I do so, allow me to pause and honour the visionary leadership of our fallen hero, the Founding President of the Republic of Namibia and Father of the Namibian Nation, His Excellency Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma. The Founding Father was a strong proponent of utilizing desalination and renewable energy to transform the country's arid landscapes into productive agricultural areas. He stated that "I would therefore like to propose to the Government of the Republic of Namibia to adopt seawater desalination using renewable energy as the principal source of bulk water supply in our country in the medium and long-term." May His Soul rest in Peace.
2. The Ministry would like to extend its appreciation to the former Minister of Finance and Public Enterprises, Honourable Ipumbu Shiimi, and the former Director General and Minister of Economic Development, Honourable Obeth Kandjoze for their unwavering commitment and for ensuring that, despite prevailing fiscal challenges, Vote 38 consistently received the necessary financial support to sustainably ensure access to Namibia's water resources.
3. The ministry extend its deepest appreciation to the Former Prime Minister, Right Honourable Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, for her cooperation and support in advancing drought interventions and programs aimed at the development of vital water infrastructure. We extend the same to Mr. I-Ben Nashandi, Former Executive Director in the Office of the Prime Minister. Their collaborative efforts have made a significant and lasting impact on the nation, strengthening resilience and improving the well-being of communities especially those affected by drought and water scarcity. Their dedication in these critical areas are highly acknowledged and sincerely appreciated.
4. At this juncture, I profoundly extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Elijah Tjitunga Ngurare, a distinguished product of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, on his well-deserved appointment. This achievement stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment, visionary leadership, and tireless dedication to the socio-economic development of our country, qualities he clearly demonstrated during his exemplary tenure as Head of the Department of Water Affairs, in the Ministry.
5. Additionally, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Elijah Tjitunga Ngurare, a distinguished product of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, on his well-deserved appointment. This achievement stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment, visionary leadership, and tireless dedication to the socio-economic development of our country, qualities he clearly demonstrated during his exemplary tenure as Head of the Department of Water Affairs, in the Ministry.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

6. Water is not only a basic human right but it is life and it serve as a cornerstone of our national development and economic resilience. In a country like ours, where every drop counts, the sustainable management of water resources is not optional but it is imperative. Effective water management and supply ensures food security and industrial growth. There is a need to continue prioritizing investment in water infrastructure and enforce policies that safeguard this critical resource for current and future generations. The prosperity of our people, the success of our agricultural sector, and the stability of our ecosystems all depend on how wisely we manage our water today.
7. Similarly, living aquatic resources are also a vital pillar of our nation’s economy, food security, and cultural heritage. From sustaining thousands of livelihoods to contributing significantly to national revenue, our marine and inland fisheries must be recognized as strategic national assets. However, the true value of these resources lie in our ability to manage and utilise them sustainably. It is our moral and constitutional duty to protect our aquatic ecosystems from overexploitation, illegal fishing, and environmental degradation. Through science-based policies, effective enforcement, and inclusive governance, we must ensure that our aquatic wealth benefits not only the current generation but also future generation. The sustainable management of our living aquatic resources is not just an environmental imperative, it is a socio-economic necessity and a path to long-term national prosperity.



Her Excellency Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah at the
Kalimbeza Rice Project pump station



Founding Father His Excellency Dr Sam Nujoma and Former President His Excellency Nangolo Mbumba
visiting the desalination plant in Swakopmund

8. We can all attest to the fact that Namibia received normal to above normal rainfall since February this year, a development that has brought much needed relief to our water catchment areas. As a result, the majority of our dams have recorded significant inflows with water levels now standing above 60 percent. This positive development enhances our water security outlook, supports agricultural productivity, and provides a staple foundation for socio-economic activities across the country. Government remains committed to ensuring the sustainable management and equitable distribution of these water resources, while continuing to invest in infrastructure that strengthen our resilience to climate variability.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

9. Our natural resource management system is aligned with international, continental, regional, and national agendas. It supports key UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) namely: SDG 6 on access to water and sanitation for all; SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 14 on marine conservation with a focus on sustainable management and utilisation of water and marine resources.
10. Namibia is an active participant in transboundary water and fisheries commissions and conventions, recognising the shared nature of water resources across the region. In line with this, the management, protection, development, use, and conservation of water is guided by the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Plan and governed by the Water Resources Management Act, Act No. 11 of 2013 at national level. In this regard, I am pleased to inform this house that a nationwide awareness campaign was successfully conducted on the **Water Resources Management Act No 11 of 2013** along with its regulations to sensitize and enhance public understanding while promoting effective management of our water resources.
11. During the formulation of the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6), water has been identified as a priority under three key thematic areas, reflecting its critical role in achieving the goals of Vision 2030. Similarly, the living aquatic resources sector has been recognised for its strategic importance, with NDP6 emphasizing the vital contribution of fisheries to the national economy. The Fisheries sector's contribution to GDP is projected to grow from N\$6.56 billion to N\$6.95 billion by 2031, underscoring its potential to drive sustainable economic development.
12. This aligns with the Government's commitment to ensure equitable access to and the sustainable development of living aquatic resources for all segments of the population especially the rural and urban poor, as a means to promote long term social and economic development across the country.



Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

13. I would like to remind this Esteemed House on the uniqueness of the budgets I am motivating. In line with the directive from Her Excellency, Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, to merge the two former Ministries of Fisheries and Marine Resources and that of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, my Ministry has diligently carried out this directive. This process resulted in the absorption of Vote 22 into Votes 37 and 38. I will provide further clarification on this split as I elaborate on each programme. It is now my honour and privilege to motivate the allocation budget for **Vote 38: Water and Marine Resources**.

A total of Nine Hundred and Fifty-Six Million, Four Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$956,475,000) has been allocated to Vote 38 for the 2025/2026 Financial Year. At this point, it is important to highlight that the budget allocation includes a portion from former Vote 22 and 38.

14. The new allocation comprises of **Three Hundred and Fifty-Eight Million, One Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$358,175,000)** for Operational Expenditure, representing 37 percent of the total budget. Additionally, the Development Budget amounts to **Five Hundred and Ninety-Eight Million, Three Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$598,300,000)**, accounting for 63 percent of the total allocation under this Vote. I would like to emphasise that the core functions under this Vote are primarily programmatic interventions encompassing capital intensive programmes and initiatives that have a significant and impactful role in driving socio-economic development. ***This vote contributes to the ministerial strategic pillars of ensuring equitable access to natural resources and contributing to sustainable transformation of the country's economy.***

15. In line with the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) 2025/2026 to 2027/2028, Vote 38: Water and Marine Resources has one programme namely: Water and Fisheries. This programme comprises of four (4) key Main Divisions, namely:

- (i) Water Resource Management
- (ii) Water Supply Security Programme
- (iii) Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination
- (iv) Water, Fisheries and Law Enforcement

A total amount of **Eighty-Five Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$85,227,000)**, representing 9 percent of the total budget, is allocated to Water Resource Management, while **Four Hundred and Seventy-One Million and Fifty-Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$471,056,000)**, accounting for 49 percent, is allocated to Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination.

Furthermore, **Three Hundred Million, Four Hundred and Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$300,406,000)**, accounting for 32 percent of the budget, is allocated to the Water Supply Security Programme, and **Ninety-Nine Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty-Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$99,786,000)**, representing 10 percent, is allocated to Water, Fisheries, and Law Enforcement.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

During the 2024/2025 Financial Year before the merger of Vote 38 and Vote 22, Vote 38 encompassed the following programmes: Integrated Water Resource Management, Water Infrastructure Development, Maintenance and Rehabilitation, and Sanitation Infrastructure Development. Vote 22, on the other hand, included Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance.

In order to provide a comprehensive overview, I will now highlight the key achievements under both Vote 38 and Vote 22 during the 2024/2025 Financial Year. Additionally, I will focus on the new specific activities and development projects proposed for funding under the revised programmes.

15.1 Integrated Water Resource Management

The objective of this programme is to ensure that Namibia achieves a sustainable water resources management regime contributing to social equity, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability. As such under this Programme the Ministry has the mandate to, “To manage, protect, develop, use and conserve water resources; to provide for the regulation and monitoring of water services as enshrined in the Water Resource Management Act, no.11 of 2013.

The Programme consist of the following line functions:

- (i) Water resources management and monitoring
- (ii) Transboundary water management
- (iii) Water resources investigations
- (iv) Upgrade and equip the Water Analysis Laboratory
- (v) Geo-hydrological investigation in the Cuvelai-Etosha Basin
- (vi) Quantification of Underground Resources of Namibia

The Ministry also provides secretariat to the Technical Committee of Experts (TCE) for the Cabinet Committee on Water Supply Security (CCWSS) and coordinate the Construction of Water Supply Security Infrastructure Project (TCE).

15.1.1 During the 2024/2025 financial year, this programme was allocated an amount of **Ninety-Five Million, Three Hundred and Thirty-Two Namibia Dollars (N\$ 95,332,000)** to carry out the following activities:

- ✓ **Water resources management and monitoring** – the Ministry drafted the Flood and Drought management strategy, the Water Pricing Policy and reviewed regulations of the Water Resources Management Act aimed at protecting water resources and sustainable management. The Ministry further carried out Water Resources Management Act Stakeholders Awareness Campaign nationwide, maintained the water resource monitoring network and collected water resources data across the country, among others.



- ✓ **Upgrade and equip the Water Analysis Laboratory** – laboratory equipment were progressively procured to equip the Windhoek Laboratory and ensure that it is fully operational for water sample analysis. Both Windhoek and Katima Mulilo laboratories were rehabilitated in order to start with the analysis of water samples to determine the quality of water and establish whether it is fit for use.
- ✓ **Transboundary water management** – The Ministry continues to coordinate Namibia’s share from shared transboundary waters at River basin commissions, with other basin member states. To date, the Ministry facilitated the procurement of the consultancy services for the **feasibility study for the Noordoewer/Vioolsdrift Dam**, with South Africa through ORASECOM along the Lower Orange River 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.

The GEF funded project on the Cuvelai and Kunene River basins was launched with Angola under the Cuvelai Watercourse Commission (CUVECOM), which is aimed at improving the livelihood of the people in the two basins. A Preliminary Assessment on the possibility of extending the Cafu Canal into the Northern Namibia was done. Furthermore, a consultant was procured to determine the feasibility of establishing a water provision along the northern border.

- ✓ **Geo-hydrological investigation in the Cuvelai-Etосha Basin and Quantification of Underground Resources of Namibia** – Equipment for monitoring boreholes in the Cuvelai-Etосha basin were procured and installed.

*Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members*

15.1.2 During the 2025/2026 financial year a total amount of **Eighty-Five Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$85,227,000)** has been allocated to the Integrated Water Resource Management Programme in order to continue executing the following projects and core functions:

- ✓ **Legal and Regulatory Frameworks – under this Project, we will carry out the following activities:**
 - The implementation of Water Resources Management Act (Act 11 of 2013) will continue with the issuing of borehole drilling licences, water abstraction and use licenses, waste water discharge licenses as well as sand and rock removal from watercourses among others; under take inspection to ensure compliance to licence conditions.
 - Stakeholder coordination & collaboration enhancement at all levels will continue with reviving basin management committee platforms and engaging youth and learners during the World Water Days and Annual Regional Water Symposia.
 - Review and update the National Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Plan with a component of Water Infrastructure Master Plan.

✓ **Water Resources Quality and Quantity Protected and Improved** – as they say, you cannot manage what you can't measure. This Project will ensure that data and information are available to protect our scarce water resources. Hence, the Ministry will continue to:

- improve water resources monitoring networks and public awareness to enhance the management and efficiency of water systems;
- collect quality data and information by utilizing advanced digital technologies such as remote sensing and modelling to ensure proper planning and support decision making for improved water security;
- maintain and upgrade the Water resource monitoring network;
- assess the surface and ground water resources to determine the potential available water to be developed sustainably, and
- conduct Water resources investigations such as dam safety risks, Stampriet Aquifer Water quality, Tsumeb municipality & Sinomine Tsumeb Smelter water quality assessment, sand, gravel & rocks removal and other works in rivers and groundwater Investigation in the Cuvelai Basin, with the view to protect our scarce water resources.



Water resources quality monitoring



Flood monitoring equipment

- ✓ **Transboundary Water Cooperation**, as you may be aware, Honourable Members, Namibia is sharing the 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. The focus will be on the following Projects and activities:
 - secure Namibia's share from Transboundary Watercourses by carrying out the Feasibility Study for the Noordoewer-Vioolsdrift Dam-NVD on the lower Orange River;
 - carry out the full feasibility study for the Cafu Water Transfer Canal;
 - develop Ohangwena Groundwater Management system to support the sustainable water development and use;
 - strengthen the existing bilateral agreements and cooperation and continue to engage neighbouring countries to ensure joint usage of water resources in the Region, and
 - in our engagement with Angola, we will update the Kunene River Basin Agreement.

- ✓ **Strengthening Water Resources Management Capacity** -Water science as a specialized field is a scarce profession, thus under this programme the Ministry will:
 - capacitate staff through short courses and qualifying studies with a view to strengthen and develop institutional and national capacity through proper training, and skilled human resources
 - improve water resources monitoring networks and public awareness to enhance the management and efficiency of water systems, and
 - collect quality data and information to ensure proper planning and support decision making for improved water security.

15.2 Construction of Water Supply Security Infrastructure Project (TCE)

15.2.1 Under this project, the following major activities were carried out:

- ✓ The Construction Works for Oshakati Purification Plant extension has started,
- ✓ The Construction Works for Rundu Purification Plant extension have advanced and is now at 70 percent completion.
- ✓ The Construction Works of the Ohangwena Phase 2 Well field is almost completed and will be commissioned during this Financial Year.

15.2.2 During the 2025/2026 Financial Year, an amount of **Three Hundred Million, Four Hundred and Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$300,406,000)** has been allocated to the Construction of Water Supply Security Infrastructure Project.

- Under the guidance of the **Cabinet Committee on Water Supply Security (CCWSS)**, the Ministry will continue to implement the key projects aimed

at ensuring water supply security across the country. These include but not limited to the Construction of the Oshakati Purification Plant extension, the Construction of Rundu Purification Plant extension and the construction of the Erongo Desalination Plant.

Honourable members, these projects are aligned to the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6) and once funded and implemented will lead to meeting the desired outcome of *Namibia having established a sustainable water resource management system (regime) that ensures improved access to water of appropriate quantity and quality for human consumption, industrial use, and environmental protection by 2031.*



Construction of Water Supply Security Infrastructure Projects

15.3 Water Infrastructure Development, Maintenance and Rehabilitation

This Main Division comprises of the following line functions:

- (i) Community Based Management Water Infrastructure Project
- (ii) Rural Water Supply Coverage Project
- (iii) Construction of Earth Dams, Modernization of Traditional Wells, Pans for Livestock Drinking Project
- (iv) Construction of Large Dams, Desalination and Provision of Water to larger settlements Project
- (v) Construction of Water Supply Security Infrastructure Project

15.3.1 During the 2024/2025 financial year, an amount of **Three Hundred and Eleven Million, Thirty Thousand, One Hundred and Eight-nine Namibia Dollars (N\$ 311,030,189)** was allocated to this Programme and the following activities were carried out:

- ✓ **Implementation of Community-Based Management (CBM) Water Infrastructure (Drilling, Installation and Rehabilitation of Boreholes/Water Points)**
- ✓ Rural households with access to potable water countrywide increased from 91.3 per cent to 92.85 percent. In this regard, the following were achieved:
 - Thirty-one (31) short pipelines were constructed;
 - Fourteenth (14) short pipelines were rehabilitated;
 - Two Hundred and Forty-Nine (249) boreholes were drilled nationwide;
 - One Hundred and Forty-Seven (147) boreholes were installed nationwide;
 - One Hundred and Thirty-Three (133) water points were rehabilitated countrywide;
 - Three (3) traditional wells were modernised: Oshikoto (2) and Omaheke (1); and
 - Two (2) mini-desalination plants were constructed at Akazulu and Oshikondeilwa in the Oshikoto Region.
 - 62 percent of 667 farming units were provided with improved water infrastructure nationwide, recording an increase from 59%. In this regard, 24 boreholes were drilled; a 16 km pipeline was constructed in farm Quovadis in the Otjozondjupa Region and 21 boreholes were equipped with solar pumping systems.
- ✓ **Rural Water Supply Coverage (Rural Secondary Pipeline Construction)**
 - Three (3) Bulk Pipelines Water Supply Schemes were constructed and will be commissioned at Onamatanga, Ozondati-Omatjete Phase 1 and Okanguati-Ohamarembea in the Omusati, Erongo and Kunene Regions respectively.
 - An execution rate of 30.2 percent has been recorded on the implementation of consultancy services of all rural water supply projects under the Namibia Water Sector Support Programme (NWSSP) funded by the African Development Bank. In this regard, twenty-four (24) unemployed graduate youth were appointed to undertake the Demographic surveys and the Engineering consultants were appointed for all projects
 - A full Environmental Clearance Scoping Assessment and Environmental Clearance Certificates have been issued for the Katima Mulilo- Ngoma Rural Water Supply Scheme Phase 3 and Phase 4, Katima Mulilo Reservoir and Ruacana South Rural Water Supply Scheme. Construction of these water supply Pipelines will commence during this financial year.
 - The contract for the construction works on the Iitaapa- Okeeholongo Rural Water Supply Scheme Phase 2 has been issued and works is expected to commence during this financial year.
 - Environmental Clearance Certificates for Otjombinde Rural Water Supply Scheme; Katima Mulilo-Kongola Rural Water Supply Scheme Phase 3, and King Kauluma-Omutsegwonime Rural Water Supply Scheme will be issued during this financial year.

- ✓ **Construction of Earth dams, Modernisation of Traditional Wells and Pans for Livestock Drinking**
 - Thirty (30) water harvesting infrastructure (earth dams) were constructed nationally: Ohangwena (8), Oshana (9), Kavango West (4), Hardap (1), Omusati (2), ||Karas (1) Oshikoto (2) and Kunene (3) Regions.
- ✓ **Construction of Large Dams Include, Desalination and Provision of Water to Larger Settlements**

The Ministry transferred funds to the Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) under a joint agreement to provide support towards the completion of four (4) small-scale desalination plants under Phase II. In this regard,

Two (2) small-scale desalination plants under Phase II have been constructed in the Oshikoto Region at Oshikondeilwa and Akazulu. The remaining two (2) sites namely; Otatashe and Onelago will be completed during this financial year.



Rural water supply projects in northern Namibia

Sanitation Infrastructure Development

15.3.2 During the 2024/2025 financial year, the following activities were carried out:

- ✓ **Rural and Urban Sanitation Infrastructure Development**

It is important to highlight that in line with the Water and Sanitation Policy for 2008, the provision of sanitation services to the communal rural communities is the responsibility of the Regional Councils, Division of Rural Services, and is to be coordinated by the Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination in our Ministry. However, the construction of sanitation facilities in urban and resettlement areas is the responsibility of the Ministry of Urban and Rural development (MURD) while the coordination role lies with our Ministry. As a result, the following sanitation facilities were constructed:

- Seven Hundred and Eighty-Two (782) sanitation facilities (toilets) were constructed for rural households to reduce open defecation countrywide from 39.7 percent to 38.9 percent in the following regions: Oshikoto (112), Oshana (161), Kavango East (5), Omusati (54), Ohangwena (217), Kunene (7), Otjozondjupa (100), Kavango West (33), Hardap (35), Khomas (16) and Omaheke (12).

✓ **Construction of Sanitation Facilities for Schools, Health Centres and Public Places in Different Regions**

- The contracts for the construction of Thirty-Four (34) sanitation facilities (Ablution Blocks) for schools were awarded in the following 5 regions: Kavango East (9), Kavango West (7), Khomas (6), Omaheke (6) and Zambezi (6), and
- The contracts for the construction of Thirteen (13) sanitation facilities (Ablution Blocks) for Health Centres and Public Places were awarded in the following 4 regions: Kavango East (5), Kavango West (5), Kavango West at Mururani Gate (1), Zambezi at Kongola Gate (1) and Kunene at Werda Gate (1).



Sanitation Centre at a Pre-School in a Windhoek informal settlement



Temporary ablution facility at Gam settlement area for the Batswana of Namibian descent



Ablution facility at an open market in Kavango West Region



Hon. Elijah Ngurare declaring the Hadino Nghishongwa as an open defecation free area

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

15.3.3 For 2025/2026 Financial Year, Water Supply and Sanitation Coordination Programme is allocated an amount of **Four Hundred and Seventy-One Million and Fifty-Six Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$471,056,000)**. I wish to indicate that in addition to this allocation, this Programme also received funds to the tune of **Nine Hundred and Ninety Million, Fifty Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty-One Namibia Dollar (N\$ 990,050,631)** from the African Development Bank. The following activities will be implemented particularly with financial resources from Inside State revenue funds:

- Construction of Forty-Six (46) short kilometers (km) pipelines: Oshana (1), Oshikoto (3), Omusati (8), Ohangwena (5), Kharas (1), Kunene (2), Erongo (2), Otjozondjupa (3), Zambezi (8), Kavango West (1) and Kavango East (12) Regions.
- Rehabilitation of Eighteen (18) short km pipelines: Oshana (2), Oshikoto (3), Ohangwena (1), Kharas (2), Erongo (2), Otjozondjupa (1) and Zambezi (7) Regions.
- Rehabilitation of Thirty-Two (32) water points: Oshikoto (2), Hardap (5), Omaheke (2), ||Karas (3), Kunene (2), Erongo (2), Otjozondjupa (2), Zambezi (6), Kavango West (3) and Kavango East (5) Regions.
- Cleaning of Twenty-Two (22) boreholes: Khomas (3), Omaheke (2), Kunene (3), Otjozondjupa (4), Kavango West (1) and Kavango East (1) Regions.
- Connection of Two Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty-Five (2,585) Private Off-Takes (POTs): Oshikoto (400), Ohangwena (1000), Omusati (385) and Oshana (800) Regions.
- Drilling of Forty-Four (44) boreholes: Khomas (6), Oshikoto (2), Ohangwena (4), Hardap (10), Omaheke (2), Kunene (5), Erongo (3), Otjozondjupa (3), Zambezi (9) Kavango West (1) and Kavango East (3) Regions.
- Installations of Sixty-Eight (68) boreholes: Khomas (6), Oshikoto (2), Omusati (3), Hardap (10), Omaheke (1), ||Karas (3), Kunene (17), Erongo (8), Otjozondjupa (9), Zambezi (5), Kavango West (1) and Kavango East (3) Regions.
- Construction and installations of Nine (9) small-scale desalination plants: Oshikoto (1), Omusati (1), Ohangwena (1), Kunene (1), Otjozondjupa (1), Zambezi (1), Kavango West (1) and Kavango East (2) Regions.
- Modernisation of Nineteenth (19) traditional wells nationwide: Khomas (1), Oshana (2), Omusati (2), Ohangwena (2), Kunene (8), Erongo (3) and Otjozondjupa (1) Regions.
- Ensure Forty-Five (45) farming units are provided with improved water infrastructure nationwide: Drilling of 24 new boreholes, rehabilitation of 35 water points, cleaning of 6 boreholes equipped with pumping systems, and installation of 10 boreholes.
- The Onamatanga, Okanguati-Ohamaremba and Ozondati-Omatjete Phase II Rural Water Supply Schemes in the Omusati, Kunene and Erongo Regions respectively are also expected to be completed and commissioned during this Financial Year.



- Procurement of consultants for the feasibility studies on potential bulk water supply schemes to be constructed:

Honourable Members, in the Government's quest to ensure water security at the national level, several new water supply pipeline projects have been initiated and developed.

The Ministry will start with the feasibility studies on the following rural water supply schemes:

- The Eenhana-Okongo Rural Water Supply Scheme;
- Oshivelo to Ombuumbu Rural Water Supply Scheme;
- The upgrading of the Etaka-Uuvudhiya-Ekuma-Oponona Ground Canal;
- The Rundu and Shambyu Rural Water Supply Scheme;
- The excavation and development of the Bunya and Ntara, Bukalo Canal;
- The Rundu-Mururani Rural Water Supply Scheme;
- The Rundu-Nkurenkuru Rural Water Supply Scheme;
- Rundu-Ncaute Rural Water Supply Scheme;
- Rundu-Divundu Rural Water Supply Scheme;
- The Okahandja to Okandjira Rural Water Supply Scheme;
- Feasibility study for the construction of a Mini-purification plant at Gam as well as the Northern Desalination Plant;
- The assessment of the Dreihuk Area;
- The development of the Haribes Dam to Southern Area;
- The Neckartal Dam-Snyfontein-Tiervlei-Droogputs Rural Water Supply Schem, and
- The Neckartal Dam to Aus Settlement Rural Water Supply Scheme.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee

Honourable Members

In order to support agriculture production, the Ministry plans to:

- Construct Thirty-Three (33) water harvesting infrastructure (earth dams) in the following Regions: Oshikoto (2), Ohangwena (2), Omusati (2), Oshana (2), Erongo (1), Otjozondjupa (2), Kunene (2), Zambezi (3), Kavango West (3), Kavango East (3), ||Karas (3), Hardap (3) Omaheke (3) and Khomas (2).
- Furthermore, the ministry will rehabilitate five (5) existing earth dams in the following regions: Erongo (1), Otjozondjupa (1), ||Karas (1) and Omaheke (2).
- Modernisation of Nineteen (19) traditional wells in the following regions: Khomas (1), Oshana (2), Omusati (2), Ohangwena (2), Kunene (8), Erongo (3) and Otjozondjupa (1).
- The Ministry will also construct and install nine (9) small-scale desalination plants in the following regions: Oshikoto (1), Omusati (1), Ohangwena (1), Kunene (1), Otjozondjupa (1), Zambezi (1), Kavango West (1) and Kavango East (2).

*Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members*

Sanitation remains a critical pillar of the Government Development Agenda as it plays a vital role in promoting public health, environmental sustainability and human dignity. Access to adequate sanitation services is essential for eradicating open defecation which continues to pose a serious health and social challenges in various part of the country. Eliminating open defecation is not only a matter of health and hygiene but also a key step toward inclusive and sustainable development in line with national priorities and global commitments such as SDGs.

15.3.4 During the 2025/2026 Financial Year, the following activities will be implemented and as a result, both urban and rural areas of the country will see an increase in the coverage and use of better sanitation services:

- Construction of Six Hundred and Sixty-Six (666) sanitation facilities at rural households in the following Regions: Oshikoto (30), Omusati (120), Oshana (100), Oshikoto (30), Ohangwena (20), Erongo (93), Otjozondjupa (30), Kunene (68), Kavango East (50), Kavango West (80), Zambezi (30), Hardap (20), ||Karas (20) and Omaheke (20) Regions.
- Public awareness and sensitisation campaigns on the concept of Community-Led-Total-Sanitation (CLTS) will be conducted with a view to reach out to Two-Hundred and Five (205) rural communities.
- One-Hundred and Forty-Seven (147) Water-and-Sanitation (WASH) Campaigns will be conducted to raise awareness nationally and regionally on sanitation and hygiene with a view to reduce the percentage of households practicing open defecation to 38 percent.

This Programme which is jointly funded by the Government and the African Development Bank continues to drive the construction of sanitation facilities across the country while utilising the skills of in-house artisans and engaging unemployed youth to support both infrastructure development and job creation.

*Honourable chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members*

15.4 Water and Fisheries Law Enforcement.

As I alluded to earlier, this Ministry has been entrusted to lead the sector of Fisheries and Marine Resources. In this regard, allow me to elaborate on the Main Division: Water and Fisheries Law Enforcement. It remains the mandate of the Ministry to safeguard and protect the nation's natural resources by ensuring compliance with the legal framework governing the use of water, marine and inland water bodies.

15.4.1 During 2024/2025 Financial Year, despite various challenges and constraints the following activities were carried out through the then, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources:



- ✓ Successfully conducted over 2,000 patrols and inspections along-and-on sea and rivers/waterbodies within the national jurisdiction;
- ✓ A total of 679 fines amounting to **Three Hundred and Sixty-five Thousand, seven Hundred and Ninety Namibia Dollars (N\$ 365,790)** and 22 criminal cases were opened at various police stations across the country.

This effort equates to a measure of about 70 percent efficiency in executing the mandate of reducing Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing to 10 percent of expected transgressions. Complementary joint efforts with other national O/M/As (e.g., Namibian Navy and the Namibian Police), private and regional partners contributed to this achievement. These collaborative efforts will continue during the 2025/2026 Financial Year to retain the reputation of our Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) programme.



Water and Fisheries Law Enforcement activities

Honourable chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

- ✓ In terms of fisheries administration, during the 2024/2025 Financial Year, the fisheries sector generated approximately N\$300 million in revenue for the government. This revenue was derived from quota levies and license fees which are all collected in accordance with Section 44 of the Marine Resources Act (Act No. 27 of 2000). This marks a significant increase from the N\$264 million collected in 2023/2024 Financial Year. This positive trend in revenue generation underscores the growing efficiency and productivity of the fisheries sector, as well as the successful implementation of policies that promote sustainability and economic growth. These fees are essential for the sustainable management of our marine resources, as they ensure that fishing activities are conducted within the framework of established quotas aimed at maintaining fish stocks and promoting environmental sustainability.

- ✓ In addition to the state revenue fund, levies imposed on the fishing industry were collected and channeled into the Marine Resources Fund. This fund is specifically dedicated to support crucial activities related to fisheries research, training, education and development. Investing in research allows for ongoing monitoring and assessment of fish stocks, providing data that informs sustainable fishing practices and helps to ensure the long-term viability of marine resources. Furthermore, training initiatives contribute to the development of workforce skills within the sector, empowering individuals and fostering a culture of responsible and sustainable fishing.



Former Minister of Fisheries visting various fishery projects

Honourable chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

15.4.2 In order for the Ministry to continue contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13, 14, and 15, and to our 6th National Development Plan, an amount of **Ninety-nine Million, Seven Hundred and Eighty-six Thousand Namibia Dollars (NS99,786,000)** has been allocated to this Main Division during the 2025/2026 Financial Year to carry out this major activity:

- The Ministry will undertake 3,076 surveillance patrols along-and-on sea and rivers/waterbodies within the national jurisdiction. The objective is to reduce incidences of IUU fishing by 10 percent relative to recent recordings while ensuring that patrol craft are available for at least 80 percent of the scheduled operations.

Honourable chairperson of the Whole House Committee
Honourable Members

In conclusion, I wish to re-emphasise the critical importance of managing our water and living aquatic resources, particularly in light of the scarcity of water in our country. Continued investment in water infrastructure is essential to ensure water security for domestic use, livestock, and industrial development. The Ministry remains fully committed to accelerating the implementation of water, fisheries, and marine development programmes and projects, within the means of the resources allocated.

I would once again like to reiterate my sincere gratitude to Honourable Ericah Shafudah, Minister of Finance, and Honourable Kaire Mbuende, Director General of the National Planning Commission and Minister of Economic Planning, along with their dedicated teams, for considering and supporting our budget submission under this important Vote.

In the same vein, I would still like to express my deepest appreciation to my predecessor Honourable Carl-Hermann Schlettwein, the former Minister of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, his contributions have not only safeguarded the future of our water resources but have also bolstered the socio-economic development of the country through regional and international cooperation. During Honourable Schlettwein's leadership and support, critical initiatives and programs were enabled, contributing to food security, job creation, and economic empowerment across communities. The Ministry will forever remain indebted to him for his invaluable role in strengthening the resilience and sustainability of this vital sectors. Similarly, I extend our appreciation to Honourable Derek Klazen, former Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources for his hard work and commitment towards ensuring equitable management of our living aquatic resources. We extend same to Honourable Anna Shiweda and Honourable Sylvia Mokgone. Their leadership laid the foundation for our continued operations. Our appreciation also goes to Ms Annely Haiphene, the former Executive Director in the former Ministry for her dedication and commitment.

I will fail in my duty if I still do not acknowledge the support and commitment of our Accounting Officer, Madam Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata for her continued hard work and dedication in steering this ship and for her visionary leadership in ensuring that this Ministry contribute significantly to country's economic development. I extend my gratitude to the entire management of the Ministry, Honourable Ruthy Masake, our Deputy Minister, the Executive Director, Mr. Teofilus Nghitila, and the entire Ministerial team who together we shall devote their time and energy in ensuring that all Namibians have access to safe, potable water and that our marine and inland fishery resources are sustainably managed.

With this motivation, I now call upon this August House to consider, deliberate, and approve the total budget request of **Nine Hundred and Fifty-Six Million, Four Hundred and Seventy-Five Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$956,475,000)** for **Vote 38** for the 2025/26 Financial Year.

I therefore seek your support and approval for this allocation.

I thank you for your kind attention.







REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform