

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

THE PRESIDENCY

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

BY

HER EXCELLENCY DR. NETUMBO NANDI-NDAITWAH,

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,

WINDHOEK

08 APRIL 2026

THEME:

ADVANCING TOWARDS THE REALISATION OF VISION 2030

- **Honourable Dr. Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Speaker of the National Assembly;**
- **Honourable Lukas Sinimbo Muha, Chairperson of the National Council;**
- **Right Honourable Dr. Elijah Ngurare, Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament;**
- **Honourable Sophia N. Shaningwa, Secretary General of the SWAPO Party;**
- **Honourable Immanuel Nashinge, Leader of the Official Opposition in Parliament;**
- **Leaders of political parties represented in Parliament;**
- **Honourable Members of Parliament;**

<u>SPECIAL GUESTS:</u>

- **Her Excellency Lucia Witbooi, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **His Excellency Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, Fourth President of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Lieutenant General Epaphras Denga Ndaitwah, First Gentleman of the Republic of Namibia;**
- **Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps;**

- **Your Lordship Peter Shivute, Chief Justice;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Fellow Namibians.**

1. **We could not have foreseen that this address would be preceded by such profound grief. Comrade James Unomasa Uerikua and his son Venturo Uerikua tragically passed on in a car accident on the 3rd April 2026, leaving their family to bear an unimaginable loss. We wish those still hospitalized a swift and full recovery.**

2. **The loss of Comrade Uerikua is a loss to his family, the National Assembly, the SWAPO Party, and the Namibian nation. He embodied Namibia's hopes and stood firmly for unity in this chamber. We are deeply pained by his passing and should commit to honouring his legacy in this August House.**

3. **I now kindly ask that we rise to observe a moment of silence in their honour (Moment of Silence). May**

the souls of Comrade James Uerikua and his son Venturo rest in eternal peace.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Chairperson,

Fellow Namibians,

4. For thirty-five consecutive years, Namibia has honoured the constitutional mandate for the President to deliver the State of the Nation Address (SONA), as enshrined in Article 32(2) of the Constitution.

5. The SONA requires the Head of State to report to Parliament on national affairs, outline future policy directions, and account for the Government's actions over the previous year.

6. I pay tribute to the vision and leadership of our Founding President, Father of the Namibian Nation, and leader of the liberation struggle, His Excellency Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, may his soul rest in eternal peace. I equally acknowledge my

predecessors, and former Members of Parliament, whose enduring legacies continue to inspire our nation.

7. I also commend the Namibian people for collectively upholding peace and political stability, and for respecting the rule of law since Independence on 21st March 1990. This enduring unity has enabled meaningful progress and safeguarded the well-being of all citizens.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

8. Since 21st March 2025, the people of Namibia have entrusted the 8th Administration with addressing their socio-economic needs and aspirations, a mandate we do not take lightly.

9. In my maiden SONA statement, on 24 April 2025, I committed to leading with integrity and

accountability, and to diligently implementing the principles of the SWAPO Party Manifesto 2025–2030 centered on Unity in Diversity, Natural Resource Beneficiation, and Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Development, as integrated into the 6th National Development Plan (NDP6).

10. Through the relentless implementation of NDP6, we steadily advance towards the conclusion of Vision 2030. This approach ensures that our policies remain coherent, focused, and aligned with our long-term national objectives, therefore, the theme of today's address: "ADVANCING TOWARDS THE REALISATION OF VISION 2030".

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

11. One of the major tasks of the year under review was the launch of the NDP6 in July 2025. The Plan that

will conclude Vision 2030 is anchored on four broad pillars:

- **Economic Growth, Transformation and Resilience;**
- **Human Development and Community Resilience;**
- **Environmental Sustainability; and**
- **Effective Governance and Public Service Delivery.**

12. During the 2025/2026 fiscal year, the implementation of NDP6 was allocated a total national budget of N$106,3 billion, with the development budget amounting to N$12,828,089 billion.

13. Of the development budget, approximately N$9,636,041 billion was from the State Revenue Fund, while N$3,192,048 billion came from development partners, representing 3% of the national budget.

14. Development partners contributions were invested in key sectors such as, agriculture, education,

health, renewable energy, and institutional capacity-building.

15. **To implement our programs, we need legal instruments in addition to the budget. Currently, we have seven (7) bills on the table of the National Assembly, and notices were already given for 2 bills, while nine (9) have been cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Legislation (CCL), see the attachment. We look forward to Parliament handling them with diligence and urgency.**

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

16. **For a decade, the Namibia and German governments have been negotiating Genocide, Apology, and Reparations for the 1904–1908 Ovaherero and Nama genocide.**

17. **Through the steadfast commitment of our government, supported by the Cabinet Special**

Political Committee, the Chiefs Forum, and the Technical Committee, the Joint Declaration has been reviewed and will be tabled before the National Assembly prior to signing.

18. A conclusion is now within reach, possibly before the year's end. We count on our collective political will to close this dark chapter and begin the long-awaited process of healing.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

19. During the 2025/26 fiscal year, we made significant strides in strengthening the economy, fostering transformation, and building resilience against external shocks.

20. The government repaid the N$14.3 billion Eurobond, our largest-ever single-day debt

payment, significantly boosting Namibia's international credit standing.

21. Foreign exchange reserves stand at N$51.9 billion, providing 3.8 months of import cover. For the first time, the Government has pursued gold acquisition to diversify reserves and preserve monetary sovereignty.

22. The financial sector remains resilient. The Cabinet approved the Namibia Financial Sector Transformation Strategy 2025–2035, enhancing inclusivity, consumer protection, and capital market development. Additionally, the Namibia Deposit Guarantee Authority doubled depositor coverage from N$25,000 to N$50,000 per depositor in 2025.

23. GDP is projected to grow from 1.7% in 2025 to 3.1% in 2026, necessitating the rapid identification of new economic frontiers. However, the ongoing war in the Middle East poses a downside risk.

24. Financial inclusion continues to expand through the Instant Payment Solution, enabling real-time digital transactions and efficient disbursement of social grants to vulnerable populations.

25. In tax administration, significant strides have been made to speed up VAT refunds, with turnaround times reduced from 90 days to about 30 days, thereby improving cash flow for businesses and supporting economic activity, particularly as we value the role of the private sector in the economy.

26. During the year under review, 13 operational investment projects valued at N$4.3 billion generated 1,503 jobs have been registered. A further 15 projects worth N$63.5 billion are underway, including the Osino Gold and Bannerman Etango Uranium mines, with 1,934 jobs already created and 24,195 projected at full operation.

27. In an effort to strengthen the business climate, last year I hosted the inaugural Namibia Public-Private

Forum, which led to the formation of Task Forces on economic recovery, health, and housing. I want to thank the Task Forces for having submitted their reports by the deadline of 31 March 2026, recommendations have been proposed for consideration.

28. The ease of doing business has improved, with average waiting periods reduced from 21 to 14 days through the operationalisation of the One-Stop Shop.

29. Enabling legislation for the Welwitschia Sovereign Wealth Fund, designed to benefit future generations, is at an advanced stage and will be tabled in Parliament soon.

30. Over the past five years, GDP has grown from N$190 billion to N$270 billion, with tax revenue rising from N$55 billion to N$76 billion, a compounded growth rate of 9%, sustaining a tax-to-GDP ratio of 30.5% and placing Namibia among Africa's top three.

31. Through prudent policies and strategic investments, Government continues to lay a solid foundation for sustainable economic growth and shared prosperity.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

32. Despite progress in fiscal management and economic governance, several challenges persist that require attention and action.

33. The government faces fiscal pressures and competing budget priorities, requiring careful resource allocation to balance immediate needs with long-term development goals. There is also an urgent need to expand the domestic revenue base to secure sustainable funding for public services and strategic investments.

34. The economy's ongoing reliance on primary sectors highlights the need to improve economic diversification efforts to strengthen resilience and lessen exposure to external shocks.

35. Capacity constraints in implementing reforms and digital systems continue to pose a challenge, necessitating ongoing investment in skills development, institutional strengthening, and technology adoption.

36. The government remains dedicated to tackling these challenges through coordinated policy measures, institutional reforms, and stakeholder involvement, thereby creating a more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready economy for all Namibians.

37. Efforts to improve efficiency in public procurement continue, including specific reforms and the adoption of the Electronic Government Procurement system.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Chairperson,

Fellow Namibians,

38. Over the past year, we have focused on investing in our people and communities, emphasizing education, health, and social protection to strengthen resilience and boost the quality of life for all citizens.

39. We have continued to focus on the 7 key priority areas and the 8 critical economic enablers that drive the socio-economic transformation we pledged to deliver for our people during the 8th Administration. The priority areas are:

- **Agriculture**
- **Sports**
- **Youth Empowerment**
- **Quality Education & Training**
- **Creative Industries**
- **Quality Health & Social Welfare**
- **Land, Housing & Sanitation**

40. These seven key priorities are supported by eight critical economic enablers, namely:

- **Mining**
- **Energy**
- **Oil and Gas**
- **Tourism**
- **Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, and**
- **Transport & Logistics**

41. With agriculture, the 8th Administration aims to make Namibia food self-sufficient by reducing the country's reliance on imported food items by 80% by 2030.

42. During the period under review, Namibia exported agricultural products worth N$2 billion, totaling about 90,000 metric tons. Of this amount, 62% consisted of table grapes, while 14% were tomatoes.

43. Local fruit production grew from 4% to 6%. Namibia held a 56% market share in vegetables

valued at N$323 million, compared to imported vegetables at 44%, valued at N$257 million.

44. The country increased its white maize production from 33,000 metric tons to 69,541 metric tons by the end of the 2025 marketing season, accounting for 31% of total national consumption.

45. While much remains to be done to maximize national benefits from the Green Scheme, some progress has been achieved. During the review period, a total of 6,758.65 metric tons of maize were harvested from 1,133.38 hectares, generating N$56.9 million. Also, 609 hectares of wheat planted have yielded N$10.5 million.

46. The Namibian Correctional Service (NCS) produced a variety of agricultural and livestock products, including white and yellow maize, wheat, lucerne, vegetables, fruits, pork, beef, mutton, goat meat, chicken, and eggs, valued at N$22.6 million.

47. The NCS's food production initiatives are positively contributing to the national goal of food self-sufficiency and are helping to reduce costs for the State.

48. The National Industrial Development Agency (NIDA), in collaboration with a Norwegian salmon-producing company, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a joint venture for large-scale salmon farming and harvesting in Namibia.

49. The expected production will range from 1,000 to 51,000 tonnes over seven years. The project centers on farming Atlantic salmon in the Benguela Current off Namibia's southern coast. The estimated investment for this project is N$2,5 billion.

50. The government supports the agricultural value chain by providing subsidies to farmers on, among others, seeds, agrochemicals, fertilizers, irrigation solutions, and subsidized agricultural inputs and

services such as ripping, plowing, planting, and weeding for cereal producers.

51. The livestock value chain is Namibia's largest agricultural employer, supporting the livelihoods of about 70% of our population. The sector currently provides over 45,000 direct jobs in primary production and 12,000 high-value technical roles within export and processing facilities, making it a vital economic pillar for our country.

52. It contributed 3.5% directly to GDP, increasing to 6.2% when including manufacturing and value-addition, which clearly demonstrates our "Growth at Home" strategy in action.

53. Namibia maintains its internationally recognized animal health status, ensuring continued access to key export markets, such as, the European Union, China, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, the United States, and regional markets.

54. Our government continues to monitor and carry out surveillance measures necessary to preserve livestock health, including vaccinating 320,000 cattle against Foot and Mouth Disease.

55. Protocols have been established and put into practice following the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in some of our neighboring countries.

56. This includes the official declaration of an FMD control area within Namibia's FMD-free zone in //Kharas Region. This measure aims to protect Namibia's FMD-free status and ensure continued access to international export markets.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

57. On sports, the government has started upgrading sports infrastructure to meet international

standards for hosting events and to improve the country's ranking.

58. Regarding the 121 Basic Community Sport Facilities, all sites were identified and audited. The Government, through the Ministry of Works and Transport, created designs for the first 28 facilities, and the Terms of References are finalised.

59. To speed up delivery, responsibility for construction was transferred to the regional governors. In this regard, the Treasury transferred funds to the Regional Governors to work collaboratively with Regional Councilors. Many regions have already started clearing land and have undertaken groundbreaking events.

60. Under the Regional Sports Facilities, most regional stadium sites have been identified, except for Omuthiya and Gobabis.

61. Terms of Reference for these stadiums have already been prepared. Following a successful outcome for the line Ministry at the Review Panel, construction has begun on the Katima and Opuwo stadiums. Meanwhile, the Eenhana and Nkurenkuru stadiums, which are carried over from the previous years, are making good progress and need to be aligned with Category 2 requirements.

62. Coming to National Sports Facilities, the feasibility study for Independence Stadium has been approved. To ensure the stadium meets Category 3 standards, two consultative meetings were held with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) facility inspectors for guidance. We are now awaiting the detailed report outlining the next steps.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

63. On Youth Empowerment, the Government continues to prioritize youth development as a vital part of national progress. Consequently, there are several programs targeting youth from various perspectives. The Government remains dedicated to providing equitable access to quality skills training for all young people.

64. A total of 504 youths were empowered through sustainable livelihood initiatives. This included 104 young people trained in mushroom cultivation across all 14 regions, with 6 regions already receiving start-up materials, and 400 youths trained in biomass production and prepared for deployment to production sites.

65. Under the Youth Credit Scheme, 1,034 young people received training in business management to enhance their entrepreneurial skills.

66. Furthermore, eleven youth enterprises across the Regions of //Kharas, Hardap, Khomas, Erongo,

Kunene, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, and Kavango West were financed as part of the 121 Rural Youth Constituency Enterprises Initiative. This program aims to promote rural industrialization and local economic growth.

67. Meanwhile, fourteen youth agriculture cooperatives were formed to generate sustainable economic growth opportunities for young people.

68. A total of 353 young people completed one-year basic skills training at !Kai//Ganaxab, Berg Aukas, and Frans Dimbare Youth Skills Training Centres, while 119 youth finished semester-based short courses at Multi-Purpose Youth Resource Centres. These programs continue to provide youth with practical, market-relevant skills for self-reliance.

69. Through the National Youth Services, a total of 1,030 recruits were successfully trained, while 600 recruits from the 16th and earlier intakes of the 2025/26 financial year were enlisted into the

Namibian Defence Force. The Service also participated in 20 voluntary service projects with 987 recruits deployed.

70. Through the Equipment Aid Scheme Program, the Government has supported 82 micro, small, and medium entrepreneurs across all fourteen regions of the country, comprising forty-one men and forty-one women.

71. Under the Youth Development Fund, a total of 211 projects has been approved, with a combined investment of around N$63.1 million, and the expected jobs created are 898. Of the approved projects, about N$16.8 million has been disbursed, while 2,035 applications have been referred for enhancement to make them bankable.

72. As of February 2026, the Development Bank of Namibia has mentored and coached about 800 SMEs across the 14 regions. This mentoring and

coaching strategy aims to build the capacity of SMEs with skills to access capital.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

73. Moving to the fourth priority area, Quality Education and Training, the government prioritized the continued expansion and upgrading of education infrastructure.

74. Subsequently, 237 primary classrooms, 172 pre-primary classrooms, 40 administrative offices, 39 science laboratories, 37 computer laboratories, 36 school libraries, 51 ablution blocks, and some community hostels and community learning development centers were constructed in different regions during the period under review. The aim is to improve access to education and the living conditions of learners.

75. In higher education, the government implemented a fully subsidized 100% Tertiary Education Funding Model covering registration and tuition fees for eligible undergraduates at all public and private institutions of higher learning as well as technical vocational training centers. This reform was supported by an initial allocation of N$663 million.

76. In the same vein, student support was broadened through the Namibia Students Financial Assistance Fund (NSFAF), which increased the household income limit for non-tuition aid to N$300,000, thereby allowing more middle-income families to qualify.

77. Additionally, NSFAF was successfully reintegrated into the Ministry of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Art and Culture to streamline operations and enhance efficiency.

78. The revival of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Science,

Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education has been a major focus during this period.

79. Initiatives such as the 2026 Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Expo and strategic partnerships, including the GIZ Pro-TVET program, have sped up the integration of green and digital skills into vocational training curricula.

80. As a result, TVET enrollment rose to 13,512 trainees, a growth mainly due to the completion and operationalization of facilities like the Nkurenkuru and Keetmanshoop Vocational Education and Training Centre.

81. To better align education with industry needs, new programs have been introduced focusing on green hydrogen, renewable energy, and other emerging industries.

82. **To better equip students and graduates for the job market, the Work Integrated Learning Policy was launched in March 2026 to offer appropriate skills required in the global economy.**

83. **Improving teaching and learning outcomes at the school level remains one of the government's strategic priorities. As a result, the school curriculum is continually revised to stay relevant to current realities.**

84. **In this regard, learners' performance at both the Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Ordinary (NSSCO) level and Namibia Senior Secondary Certificate Advanced Subsidiary (NSSCAS) has improved during the 2025 academic year.**

85. **Out of 38,692 full-time NSSCO candidates who took the national exams, 13,931 candidates (36.0%) qualified to advance to the NSSCAS level in 2026. This marks an improvement from 12,031 candidates**

(29.5%) who qualified to advance to NSSCAS in 2025.

86. This improvement shows that 40.5% of NSSCO candidates who took the 2025 national exams meet the admission criteria for degree programs at higher education institutions.

87. Achievement under the twenty-point target, which includes certificates, diplomas, and TVET-related studies, rose from 53.7% to 60.2%, reflecting a 6.5% increase compared to the 2024 cohort.

88. At the NSSCAS level, a total of 11,968 full-time candidates took the 2025 national exams. The percentage of candidates achieving the required symbols in three subjects for university admission is 70%.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

89. In the Creative Industries, from April 2025 to March 2026, the country attracted 59 foreign film projects showcasing Namibia's stunning locations, while local filmmakers produced 36 films.

90. These activities created 1,240 temporary jobs in catering, transportation, hospitality, crew, cast, and producers, and led to local hires earning about N$18.86 million. Overall, both foreign and local film productions contributed an estimated N$47 million to the Namibian economy.

91. To further bolster the industry's growth, the Namibia Film Commission invests N$200,000 each year in skills development programs through a three-year partnership with the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST).

92. This investment aims at upskilling, enhancing local talent, and positioning Namibia as a competitive player in the global film industry and in job creation.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Chairperson,

Fellow Namibians,

93. Under the Quality of Health and Social Welfare, the government has successfully implemented the Vision April 2026. The vision urges senior government officials, including political office bearers, to potentially use public health facilities starting from 1st April 2026. It emphasizes prioritizing dignity in healthcare, raising standards at public health facilities to match private care, and ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare for all citizens.

94. The directive also aims to strengthen the healthcare sector by ensuring that funds from medical aid claims for using state facilities are reinvested to improve healthcare infrastructure, staffing, and the availability of equipment and medicines.

95. Subsequently, 7 public health facilities have been improved as test cases to enhance treatment capabilities across public health facilities, and they are ready for use and for the state to claim from your medical aid. These are;

- **Windhoek Central Hospital;**
- **Katutura Intermediate Hospital;**
- **Oshakati Intermediate Hospital;**
- **Rundu Intermediate Hospital;**
- **Swakopmund/Walvis Bay Hospital Complex;**
- **Onandjokwe Intermediate Hospital, and**
- **Keetmanshoop District Hospital.**

96. Under clinical health care services, direct procurement of pharmaceuticals and clinical supplies from manufacturers has resulted in positive outcomes and cost-saving efficiencies.

97. By directly procuring medicines from manufacturers, the medicines service level has increased to 57% across the system, up from 49% before these efforts began. Savings from this

procurement method have been redirected and reinvested into the system to buy more medicines.

98. The government continues to promote this procurement approach to increase stock levels toward the minimum target of 80% across the system, which is the minimum acceptable for quality health services.

99. The government has also extended this procurement dispensation to include medical equipment. This cost-effective model aims to fill significant gaps in equipment supply at state facilities.

100. An award of N$164 million has been granted to renowned medical equipment manufacturers for deliveries over the next three months. This includes, among other items, a Computed Tomography (CT) machine designated for Keetmanshoop Hospital, which will be the first CT scan machine in the southern Namibia state health system, along with

126 Electrocardiogram (ECG) machines, 22 mobile X-ray machines, 39 general ultrasound machines, and 548 vital signs monitors.

101. Furthermore, 36 ambulances were purchased and distributed nationwide to enhance emergency healthcare services. Also, 34 vehicles were acquired, with 14 designated to support outreach efforts for preventive and health-promotion activities in communities.

102. Regarding human resources for health, the Government hired 3,471 employees. This rapid recruitment has led to better service delivery and shorter wait times at health facilities.

103. During the year under review, over 51,000 people with disabilities received assistive devices, a vital step toward ensuring mobility and full participation in society. More than 1,235 wheelchairs were purchased and distributed.

104. I am pleased to report that four clinics and one health center have been completed, namely Onanghulo Clinic, the upgrades of Ompundja, Onamukulo, and Mabushe clinics, and the Aussenkehr Health Centre.

105. The Maxuilili Clinic and Okuryangava Health Centre in Windhoek are now open twenty-four hours a day, including weekends. Additionally, five specialized units have also been completed for full operation, these are, the Katima Mulilo ICU, kidney dialysis units at Keetmanshoop, Katima Mulilo, and Walvis Bay, and a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Swakopmund District Hospital.

106. The Walvis Bay Oncology Centre, the first oncology and chemotherapy facility outside Windhoek, was inaugurated in February 2026, offering essential chemotherapy services.

107. A new 120-bed maternity ward at Onandjokwe Intermediate Hospital and a 17-bed Intensive Care

Unit at Oshakati Intermediate Hospital have been completed.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

108. The government successfully contained a cholera outbreak in Opuwo, an Mpox outbreak in Swakopmund, and a Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever outbreak in Gobabis. An 89% nationwide vaccination rate was achieved against the circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 detected in Rundu, Windhoek, and Gobabis.

109. In our efforts to enhance services at public health facilities, the Government has restored hot water at the Windhoek Central Hospital with a budget of N$6.4 million after 15 years without hot water. The restoration of hot water at Intermediate Hospital Katutura is still in progress.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Chairperson,

Fellow Namibians,

110. Under Land, Housing, and Sanitation, a total of 14 townships were approved and proclaimed, including Brukharos and Keetmanshoop, Mariental Extension 5, and several extensions in Plaatjiesheuwel and Köes. Other newly proclaimed townships include Oniipa and Outapi Extension 20.

111. Similarly, development occurred in informal settlement areas such as Okandjengedi South Extension 2 in Oshakati, as well as in greenfield areas like Etati in Opuwo, Block D in Rehoboth, and Rundu Extension 44.

112. Progress has been made in servicing plots, including providing water, sewerage, roads, and electricity. About 604 serviced erven were delivered in Otjiwarongo and Omaruru through partnerships with community-based organizations.

113. Land-servicing initiatives have also begun in Windhoek 5,000 erven and in Walvis Bay, Rundu, Oshakati, and Keetmanshoop, each with 1,200 erven. These five towns are highlighted in the SWAPO Election Manifesto and NDP6.

114. Under the affordable low-cost housing program, the National Housing Enterprise (NHE) delivered 112 housing units in various locations, including 58 units through the Mass Housing Development Project (MHDP) in Windhoek, and 3,106 units by the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN) across all 14 regions. Ongoing construction under the MHDP includes 304 houses in Windhoek and 24 in Opuwo.

115. Sanitation facilities have been built in informal settlements, including 250 units in Windhoek and 1,019 rural toilets have been installed across regions. These enhancements have led to better public health, safer environments, and improved community well-being.

116. The government continues to promote equitable land access through comprehensive land reform and resettlement programs. In this regard, 24 Farms were purchased in the 2025/26 financial year at a cost of 238 million. 10 farms for the National Resettlement program, 11 farms for Generational Farm Workers and farmers in corridors, 2 farms for the resettlement of Batswana of Namibian decent and 1 farm in the vicinity of the Neckertal Dam, we have resettled 52 people during the period under review.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

117. As I reflect on the Government's performance during the year under review, I am pleased to note that the 8th Administration's policy interventions through the eight critical economic enablers are producing promising results.

118. The mining sector continues to significantly contribute to the GDP, foreign exchange earnings, and job creation. During the 2025/26 financial year, the sector generated over N$64.7 billion in export earnings and collected N$1.4 billion in royalties, while 580 jobs were created.

119. The uranium and gold sub-sectors have surpassed diamond due to their global demand and high prices, while diamond prices have declined because of the influx of lab-grown diamonds flooding the market.

120. At the 2026 Investing in African Mining Indaba held in Cape Town, Namibia officially became a signatory to the Luanda Accord, an industry-led initiative aimed at protecting the natural diamond category through coordinated global marketing and consumer education.

121. A study on strategies for the sustainable use and value addition to Namibia's strategic raw minerals

and critical raw materials has commenced. Work on developing the Minerals Beneficiation policy has begun, and the Prospection and Mining Act of 1992 is also under review to meet the sector's current needs.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

122. Regarding Energy, our efforts focus on ensuring sustainability and reliability for all citizens. Several energy projects are underway, mainly concentrating on biomass, solar, and other sources. Together, these projects total over N$8 billion. Once fully operational, they will boost electricity generation capacity from the current 759 megawatts to 903 megawatts this financial year.

123. A series of infrastructure and development projects has been initiated to enhance rural electrification,

with a particular focus on public schools and essential services across the country.

124. On Oil and Gas, I want to emphasize that this is a strategic sector worldwide. If it is not properly managed from the beginning, it could become a curse for our country, as we have seen in some nations around the globe. That is why I have decided to oversee it directly under the Presidency, through the oil unit, with an initial staff establishment of 26 which could expand up to 141.

125. I am therefore, calling on Parliament to join me in this effort. The first step is to pass the petroleum amendment bill with urgency, as one year has already been lost. Since its establishment, the oil unit has conducted successful benchmarking visits to Guyana, Angola, Norway, and Algeria.

126. A government technical committee guided by the High-Level Team of ministers has also been established, and work has begun on the first phase

of reviewing and providing input on the Field Development Plan batch submitted by Total Energies, marking an important initial step toward formal negotiations and final investment decisions.

127. At my request, the government of Norway has agreed to provide us with technical support. One of the Norwegian delegated officers who was part of the team that drafted the Namibia Petroleum Act of 1992 visited Namibia for a week last month, and they are currently in contact with the Oil Unit.

128. If needed, the Oil Unit is ready to engage the relevant parliamentary committee for more information, as negotiations are not conducted in the chamber.

129. Moving forward, the government has completed regional consultations on the local content policy to gather public input and prepare a comprehensive legislative review before presenting it in Parliament.

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Chairperson,

Fellow Namibians,

130. Tourism positions our nation as a top destination. In this regard, our national parks brought in a total of N$183 million from entrance and conservation fees. Conservancies earned a total of N$109 million in 2025 through joint ventures, concessions, and conservation hunting.

131. Regarding infrastructure development, staff houses and offices at Hardap Game Park, Namutoni, Keetmanshoop, and Daan Viljoen Game Park have been renovated at a cost of N$4,4 million.

132. Furthermore, 183 km of the Etosha National Park has been upgraded, with an additional 15 km and 13 km of Mahango fence completed. This is aimed at improving tourism infrastructure, conservation efforts, and wildlife management, while reducing

human-wildlife conflict and promoting biodiversity conservation.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

133. Securing water resources remains a key priority for the government. During the reporting period, rural water supply coverage grew from 83.5% to 84.9%, thanks to ongoing investment in water infrastructure.

134. The government completed drilling 94 new boreholes, installing 137 water-supply installations, rehabilitating 51 boreholes, and constructing 55 distribution pipelines, enabling 2,886 household water connections in rural areas across Namibia.

135. In November 2025, I inaugurated the N$250 million Ohangwena II Wellfield, supported by the African Development Bank. The Government signed a 75-

million-euro agreement with KfW to help fund the Omundaungilo–Omutsegwonime Pipeline, which will provide much-needed relief to communities in eastern Ohangwena and Oshikoto regions.

136. The second-largest water supply project currently in progress is the Rundu Water Treatment Plant Extension, valued at N$650 million. This project aims to provide water to Rundu and surrounding communities within a 100-mile radius in both Kavango East and Kavango West regions.

137. In the Zambezi Region, funding from KfW and the African Development Bank has been obtained for constructing a new water treatment plant, storage reservoirs in Katima Mulilo, and new rural water pipelines.

138. In the //Kharas Region, the Naute-Keetmanshoop Pipeline Replacement Project has begun to modernize the aging pipeline at a cost of N$200 million.

139. At this juncture, I would like to inform the nation that Namibia's President is a co-chair of the Global Water Partnership for Africa, alongside the President of Senegal and the Prime Minister of the Netherlands. Our country is honored to host the headquarters of a Global Water Project Organization, which will be relocating from Sweden.

140. The project aims to strengthen Africa's capacity in water governance. As the host of the headquarters for the Global Water Project Organization, Namibia will have an opportunity to learn more for the country's benefit.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

141. The fishing sector remains a vital part of Namibia's economy, contributing 4.1% to GDP, generating N$14.3 billion in exports, and supporting over 21,000 direct jobs across the value chain.

142. The government promotes local value addition through the 70:30 policy ratio, which requires that fish quotas be processed onshore to maximize employment opportunities. We are currently at 100% for Monk and 80% for Hake, and soon the latter will also be processed locally at 100%.

143. However, there is a general downward trend in the main regulated species for Total Allowable Catch (TAC), raising concerns about the sector's long-term sustainability and productivity.

144. While the country continues with science-based fisheries management, recent stock assessments reveal that several key commercial species are under increasing pressure.

145. This highlights the urgency of adaptive management and strengthened conservation efforts to safeguard the future of Namibia's fisheries and the livelihoods they support. Subsequently, a review of harvesting control rules

for all sub-sectors has begun. And also, we are working on developing management plans for all TAC regulated species.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

146. On transport and logistics, the government demonstrated its commitment to improving transport infrastructure by completing several key projects. These included the construction and completion of the TR 9/1 dual carriageway from Windhoek to Hosea Kutako International Airport, covering over 48.5 kilometers. A D4119 gravel road of 23 kilometers from Omulondo to Oshuuli in the Ohangwena region was also built.

147. The upgrading and maintenance of railway infrastructure across the country are ongoing, and 98 young people were trained in railway maintenance. The procurement process is

underway for the Trans-Zambezi Railway project and the Ondangwa-Oshakati Northern Railway extension (phase 3). Meanwhile, the Trans-Kalahari Railway project is at the feasibility study stage.

148. To strengthen this sector, 137 new recruits and 57 interns in engineering, quantity surveying, and meteorology have joined the Ministry of Transport and Works.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

149. In our efforts to enhance safety and security in our country, a total of 1,779 cadet constables graduated from the Police Basic Training Course Intake of the 2024/2025 fiscal year and were deployed nationwide. Additionally, 426 officers were appointed to the Namibia Correctional Service, while 404 recruits are currently undergoing basic training.

150. A total of 2,419 Namibian Defence Force members were trained in combat and academic skills, providing them with the necessary abilities to operate effectively in the digital era, as per NDP6.

151. Meanwhile, 1, 705 youths in the 18th Recruit Intake are undergoing basic military training and are expected to graduate in May 2026. The next intake will include 1,500 young people, of whom 600 are graduates of the National Youth Service. The goal is to strengthen and rejuvenate the force while integrating young talent from all regions.

152. Support during national disasters such as floods, droughts, and veld fires, among others, remains a secondary role of the Defence Force. Self-sustenance initiatives like uniform production, infrastructure development, logistics services, and technology innovation, operated by August 26, continue to add value to the work of the Defence Force. The Afro-Tour Project, which will specialize

in cattle ranching and horticulture, will soon be developed in Kavango West.

153. Home Affairs and Immigration, since the Visa on Arrival system became operational on 1 April 2025, close to 344,000 visas were issued, generating over N$490 million for the state coffers. To attract investment, an investment visa will soon be introduced, and bottlenecks related to immigration services are being addressed.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

154. Regarding social welfare, the government continues to honor the sacrifices of the veterans of the National Liberation Struggle and to support the dependents of deceased veterans. In this regard, a total of N$1.28 billion was invested in programs and projects to improve veterans' welfare.

Key interventions included:

- **Gratuities, subsidies, and welfare grants totaling N$ 982 million.**
- **Funeral assistance for bereaved families amounting to N$ 2.1 million.**
- **Medical support valued at around N$800,000 for eligible veterans;**
- **Individual Veterans Projects: 1,770 veterans received a total of N$300 million in payments.**
- **Provision of psychosocial support to veterans facing psychosocial challenges; and**
- **Exhumation of remains of fallen combatants of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) in Kunene and Ohangwena Regions respectively, ensuring dignity and closure for affected communities.**

155. Through these measures, the Government emphasizes its dedication to protecting veterans' dignity, welfare, and recognition.

156. On the Disability Affairs program, 217 students have benefited from the Education Support Program across all 14 regions, totaling N$7,893,795. Additionally, 1,940 beneficiaries with severe disabilities received support tailored to their specific needs.

157. The revised National Policy on Disability was launched on 27 October 2025, reaffirming Namibia's commitment to equality, dignity and non-discrimination for all citizens.

158. Regarding Indigenous Minority (vulnerable) communities' programs, food for the feeding program was purchased at a cost of N$123,920,652.53 million. Students were registered at various higher learning institutions with expenses amounting to N$10,331,428.94 million for tuition fees, N$5,965,641.80 million for accommodation, and N$6,339,177.00 million for allowances. Families of 193 deceased Indigenous

Minority Community members received burial support totaling N$1,872,444.95 million.

159. Having successfully launched the issuance of National Documents for the Indigenous Minority (vulnerable) Communities, to date, a total number of 24,959 documents have been issued.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

160. With Regards to Environmental Affairs, the Government approved a Project Preparation Facility application for the Climate Resilient Enduring Earth for Bolivia and Namibia project, implemented by the World Wide Fund for Nature, which received N$14.6 million from the Green Climate Fund.

161. The forestry sector's contribution to Namibia is promising, with the bush biomass sub-sector

generating at least N$2 billion in export revenue for the charcoal industry during the period under review.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

162. Nations and states are distinguished by good governance. According to the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance, Namibia scored 63.9 out of 100, ranking sixth among 54 African countries.

163. In media freedom, Namibia improved from 34th place out of 180 countries in the 2024 Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index to 28th place in the 2025 index, with the score increasing from 74.16 to 75.35, ranking Namibia second in Africa.

164. In terms of corruption perception, the Transparency International Index ranks Namibia with a score of

46 out of 100 and at position 65 out of 182 countries in 2025, a decline of three points from the previous year.

165. On this note, I would like to re-emphasize that the fight against corruption is not only that of the government, but a collective responsibility for all Namibians. Let us join hands in the fight against this social ill. As I always say, corruption must be treated as treason because it undermines our development and threatens our peace and stability.

166. The Government continues to promote decentralization and strengthen governance systems at regional and local levels to improve service delivery and increase accountability. Accordingly, the following services were decentralized to the 14 regional councils:

- **The Ministry of Health and Social Services delegated primary health care services, including disease**

prevention and health promotion, disease control, and pharmaceutical services.

- **The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Land Reform transferred agriculture extension functions to extension services, plant and crop production advisory services, plant health, engineering services, and project support functions.**

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

167. As we advance our domestic agenda, it is equally crucial to emphasize Namibia's ongoing commitment to international relations and trade. Our strategy remains rooted in fostering peaceful coexistence within the SADC Region, across Africa, and around the world; promoting multilateralism to support international order and stability; strengthening trade partnerships; and attracting foreign direct investment to promote inclusive growth for all Namibians.

168. On bilateral relations and cooperation, Namibia remains dedicated to strengthening both bilateral and multilateral partnerships, advancing our national interests while contributing to peace, security, and prosperity across regional, continental, and global levels.

169. Our principled stance on solidarity with Cuba remains steadfast. We also reaffirm our support for the rights of the Saharawi and Palestinian peoples to self-determination and independence, as outlined in the Charter of the United Nations and grounded in international law.

170. Namibia expresses concern over the increasing conflicts in the Middle East. We reaffirm our support to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states and uphold the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs. We welcome the just announced cease-fire reached and we encourage all parties to continue engaging in dialogue without

preconditions, as this remains the only foundation for enduring peace.

171. In keeping with the SADC tradition, upon taking office, I made official introductory visits to Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

172. His Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi also made his first visit to Namibia, coinciding with thirty-five years of diplomatic ties, marking an important milestone in strengthening Namibia-India cooperation in trade, investment, energy, and technology.

173. Equally important, I hosted President Duma Boko of Botswana during the Second Session of the Namibia-Botswana Bi-National Commission in Windhoek, where we reaffirmed the deep historical, cultural, and socio-economic ties between our countries and emphasized the importance of regional connectivity, trade facilitation, and

coordinated development within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) frameworks.

174. Namibia continues to advocate for reforming the United Nations system to improve coordination, responsiveness, and legitimacy, while pushing for Security Council reform that ensures Africa's rightful representation.

175. During the year under review, the Government carried out extensive national outreach programs across all fourteen Regions to boost Namibia's involvement in the AfCFTA.

176. The Regional Business Consultations united regional leadership, the private sector, small and medium enterprises, youth entrepreneurs, and financial institutions, offering a crucial platform to promote awareness of the opportunities available through the AfCFTA single African market.

177. Namibia exported its first shipment of 45,000 tons of salt under the AfCFTA in June 2025 to Nigeria. This marks the start of new markets for Namibian products.

178. Namibian businesses have also gained market access for marula and essential oils in the cosmetics sector, mutton and seal oil in China, dates in Canada and India, pasta in Zambia, salt in Nigeria and Ghana, and hides in Kenya.

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Chairperson,
Fellow Namibians,

179. In conclusion, under our call NO BUSINESS AS USUAL, the 8th Administration has made progress across all sectors, reflecting a collective effort toward the vision of a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient nation. Our central focus in all sectors is job creation.

180. I am glad to inform the nation that, according to the record of the Social Security Commission, over 130,000 people were registered as new employees during the review period. These achievements are noteworthy, but the journey toward true national development remains ongoing and requires continued engagement and commitment from all Namibians.

181. In the same note, I truly value the engagement I have had with most of the political parties represented in parliament. Some of the proposals you brought to the table are helping us move forward with our developmental agenda as a nation. As elected national leaders, we must always find time to talk face-to-face outside the chamber.

182. As we approach the conclusion of Vision 2030, let us work diligently together with one purpose and shared vision to build the Namibia we desire, a nation characterized by opportunity, fairness, and progress for all with One Heart and One Mind.

183. WE ARE TOO FEW TO BE POOR.

Long live the Republic of Namibia!

I thank you!