



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

KEY STATEMENT

BY

HON. ERASTUS UUTONI, MP

MINISTER OF URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

AT THE OCCASION OF THE OKAHANDJA MUNICIPALITY

5-Year STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH

FRIDAY, 08 FEBRUARY 2024

OKAHANDJA

Thank you Director of Ceremonies:

- **Hon. James Unomasa Uerikua, Governor of the Otjozondjupa Region;**
- **Hon. Marlayn Mbakera, Chairperson of the Otjozondjupa Regional Council;**
- **Hon. Beatrice Kotungondo, the Mayor of Okahandja Municipality;**
- **Honourable Regional and Local Authorities councilors present;**
- **Local Authority Council representatives**
- **Commissioner-General Raphael T. Hamunyela, Commissioner-General of the Namibian Correctional Service;**
- **Commissioner Heinrich Tjiveze, Otjozondjupa Regional Police Commander and delegation;**
- **Mr. 'Alphons Tjitombo, Chief Executive Officer of Namibian Association of Local Authority Officers & Professional Development Institute,**
- **All Stakeholders and Sponsors;**
- **Men and Women in Uniforms;**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Members of the community;**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Ladies & Gentlemen;**

A very Good morning to you all.

I am honoured as we are gathered here this morning to witness the launch of the 2024 – 2029 Strategic Plan of Okahandja Municipality that will serve as an action plan that guides the implementation of set plans and priorities. This particular event will also coincide with a Ground-breaking ceremony for water and electricity infrastructure construction at Ekunde 4 and 5 later today.

I am excited because last year on 25 October 2023, I had an opportunity to be invited to Grootfontein to launch their strategic plan and last week I was in Otjiwarongo on the 28 February 2024 to inaugurate their strategic plan. Today, I am here in Okahandja once again in the same region to launch yet another strategic plan. Therefore, I reiterate my gratitude towards the vision of the leadership in the region to set a clear path towards developing your communities and the region at large.

Director of Ceremonies:

I wish to state, right from the onset that a strategic plan has become an integrated document in our organizational endeavors. This document serves as the guiding tool or road map of where we intend to be in the next five years and is aligned to our Namibian Vision 2030, the National Development Plan No. 5, the Basic Enablers and Economic Priorities including corresponding Strategic Areas, Harambee Prosperity Plan II and the Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

In light of the above, a strategic plan will be effective and relevant when a municipal council have involved all the stakeholders with an interest in the towns development affairs. Thus, the applicability of the plan is contained when the set objectives are focusing on addressing the critical need and demands of the communities as well as alignment to the national objectives.

In the same light, the development and the responsiveness to the community needs within the country is greatly measured through local authority provisions. Some of the common outcry of the citizenry is land & housing delivery and every citizen is vying to own a piece of land on which they can built and call a home. Thus, local authorities among others are called upon to deliver affordable and quality services and products, create an enabling environment for investors in order to create job opportunities for our people especially the youth.

Our government avails financial resources to local authorities and other public entities on an annual basis to render services to the public. This includes amongst others, the provision of serviced land and housing. This document therefore will be your guiding tool and it is your responsibility as locally elected leaders to ensure that its content is implemented fully for the next five years in line with government policies and legislations.

I am informed that this Strategic Plan we are launching here today like in the case of others, was a product of extensive consultation with a broad spectrum of the Municipality's internal and external stakeholders. This is in keeping with the saying that ***“People without a strategy are doomed, a strategy without people is doomed.”***

Distinguished Invited Guest; Members of the Community;

I wish to applaud the Okahandja Municipality for developing the document that will be availed and launched in the presence of the community this morning. Many organizations or institutions normally commit to develop the documents, however,

once its formulated and signed off, many a times the plan die a natural death without being implemented.

I am however grateful that you comply with the call from the Ministry by launching your strategic plan aligned to the set national objectives which includes our Ministry's score card. We are hopeful that you will steer the journey you have started with dedication, commitment, and honesty for the benefit of the Community of Okahandja and Namibia at large.

In conclusion, I have no doubt that Okahandja has huge potential that needs to be unleashed to contribute to the economic development of the town and the country at large. This can only be released when there is unity of purpose amongst the team to go above and beyond your call. It will require harmony within the local councilors and the institutions leadership stability will be instrumental to the success of the document that we are launching.

Allow me, therefore to distinguish all those who played pivotal roles in the realization of this strategic Plan namely the:

- 1) The Political leadership for their shared visionary leadership in providing the guidance and unequivocal support to the Management and residents alike.
- 2) The CEO and team who worked on the document and produced the guiding framework and clearly outlined the Town's Priorities, Targets and identified the deliverable projects which you aligned to your budget requirements.
- 3) The Community of Okahandja for your involvement in the crafting processes of the plan as it is important for the successful implementation and execution of a shared-vision as articulated within the plan.

Director of Ceremony; Ladies and Gentlemen;

I wish to reiterate the Ministry's assurances to all of you that we shall commit to ensure transparent, accountable and prudent utilization of resources committed to our sector. Thus, I once again thank all our development partners for the continued support rendered to the local authority sector in Namibia.

With these remarks, it is now my honor and privilege to declare the Okahandja Municipality 2024 – 2029 Strategic Plan officially launched.

I Thank You.