



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

---

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER & LAND REFORM**

**Key Note Address by the Honorable Minister of Agriculture, Water  
and Land Reform**

**LAUNCHING WORKSHOP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OSHIKOTO  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN**

**BY**

**Hon. Anna Shiweda  
Deputy Minister (MP)**

**DATE: 19 JUNE 2024**

**Director of Ceremonies, Ms. Christella Mwenyo, Chief  
Regional Officer of the Oshikoto Regional Council**

**Hon. Penda Ya Ndakolo, Governor of Oshikoto Region.**

**Ms. Ndiyakupi Nghituwamata, Executive Director,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform.**

**Your Worship Honourable: Heikky Amuelele Mayor of  
the beautiful town of Oniipa.**

**Hon. Samuel Shivute, Chairperson of the Oshikoto  
Regional Council Management Committee.**

**All Hon. Regional Councillors present.**

**All Regional Heads of Delegated Functions to the  
Oshikoto Regional Council.**

**All Regional Heads of Line Ministries.**

**Tate Omukwaniilwa Fillemon Nangolo Shuumbwa,  
King of Ondonga Traditional Authority, and your  
leadership.**

**Chief Dawid //Khamugab, of the Hai-//Om San  
Traditional Authority, and your leadership.**

**Members of the Oshikoto Communal Land Board**

**Invited guests,**

**Members of the media,**

## **Ladies and gentleman**

It is my distinct pleasure and honour to have been invited at this occasion to launch the first ever development of the Integrated Regional Land Use Plan for the Oshikoto Region. This workshop signifies the commencement of the development of the Oshikoto Integrated Regional Land Use Plan.

Before I proceed with my speech, I would like to sincerely thank the Oshikoto Regional Council, under your leadership Comrade Governor, for inviting all key stakeholders to this launch. Your presence here today, does not only signifies your commitment to service delivery, but it demonstrates that you are all committed to contribute to the development of a Regional Plan. I am delighted to see various institutions, organisations and communities represented here to witness the launching of this very important event.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform is mandated to develop Integrated Regional Land Use Plans (IRLUPs) for all the fourteen (14) regions of Namibia. I am happy to announce that the IRLUPs for //Kharas, Hardap, Zambezi, Kavango East, Kavango West, Otjozondjupa and Omaheke Regions were all developed, approved by Cabinet and handed over to the respective Regional Councils for

implementation and compliance monitoring. Whereas, the Oshana IRLUP is receiving consideration by the Cabinet Committee on Land and Social Issues (CCLSI). I am confident that it will also be handed over to the Oshana Regional Council for implementation, in this Financial Year.

## **Director of Ceremonies**

### **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The development of a Regional Land Use Plan is an important tool to guide regional development. With a Regional Plan, you will have a coordinated, orderly investment on the land. There will be little if no land use conflict, which could delay investment.

Therefore, one of the fundamental principal objective of this project is to develop an IRLUP with a framework database, a reliable and dynamic GIS model. The model will serve as a basic information layer for development, conservation and management of the land uses. The model will also enable stakeholders and land users to match land properties with land use requirements hence the allocation of land to the most suitable and sustainable land uses. ILUPS will also enable land to be zoned based on its best use, which will enhance productivity.

The development of IRLUPs in all the regions, would therefore, enable the Government, policy makers, and decision makers, investors to address the following, among others:

- a) What is the optimal/sustainable land use fit for a particular land?
- b) What is the optimal balance between population demands and land availability in specific areas, and how does this respond to improved land management?
- c) How the different land uses can be recommended on different types of land in different locations?
- d) How land with different potentials and constraints can be made available, assign appropriate land uses within the Constituencies and the regions?
- e) How much land is zoned for different land use classifications, and available land for development?

**Comrade Governor,**

The process of the development of the Oshikoto IRLUP commenced last financial year. The Ministry had contracted Tortoise Environmental Consultants, to develop the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Oshikoto IRLUP, Oshikoto Region. The process of land use planning often involves conflicting options of land uses which may result in negative impacts. Through SEA such impacts can be avoided, minimized or compensated and opportunities maximized through synergies.

The development of SEA would help to systematically assess impacts and identify the key issues and then convey the key messages in terms of the impacts and implications in a condensed way to the decision-makers, thereby, guide the decision-making process.

The SEA would serve as a major input to the Oshikoto IRLUP. The second SEA version is receiving consideration by the Ministry.

On the hand, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform contracted **Ransam Trading CC** to develop the Oshikoto Integrated Regional Land Use Plan, in line with all the relevant laws in particular the Environmental Management Act, 2007 (Act No. 7 of 2007) (EMA).

The Ministry is embarking upon this project at a backdrop of dwindling natural resources base and growing population needs. Land as a factor of production, remains a static, sensitive and critical resource that many Namibians and stakeholders are competing for. Therefore, it is a collective responsibility of each of us to ensure that we contribute sufficiently to the development of Oshikoto IRLUP in order to have a Regional Plan that covers all the sectorial needs.

I would like to re-emphasise the uniqueness of land and water resources. These resources are intertwined. Both land and water are declining both in quantity and quality due to utilisation by other factors such as industrial competition, rural and urban demands, degradation and pollution and erratic rainfall patterns coupled with recurrent droughts. Hence, the Ministry sought it imperative to have the development of Oshikoto IRLUP using a bottom-up- planning approach.

**Director of Ceremonies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Allow me further to inform you that the effects of climate change are a reality across the globe. The experience taught us that reactive response has never yielded successful results especially where long terms impacts are to be mediated. Hence our survival and that of the future generations is unimaginable without the sustainable use of our resources, especially land.

Therefore, relevant sectors at national to the local level, the Regional Council, Line Ministries, the Private Sector, the Traditional Authorities and the Civil Society are key players in the process of land use planning, they should ensure to make significant contributions to the IRLUP development process.

I once more, implore upon all the key role players to fully participate in the development process of your IRLUP. Let me

also appeal to those who are the custodians of different data and information that will contribute to the outcome of this project to avail reliable data to the consultants in an orderly manner.

Furthermore, let me also extend my request to all of you in your different capacities to attend the upcoming Regional revealing workshop for Oshikoto IRLUP development to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 in this very town and venue.

It is now my honour and pleasure to inform the Namibian Nation that the **Processes for the Development of an Integrated Regional Land Use Plan for Oshikoto Region**" has officially commenced today, *the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024*.

**It is also my distinct honour to declare this workshop officially open.**

**I Thank You.**