



**REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY**

**KEY NOTE ADDRESS**

**BY:**

**ANNA N. SHIWEDA, MP  
DEPUTY MINISTER**

**AT THE TWO (2) DAYS WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF LEADERSHIP IN  
WATER TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS IN ENHANCING JOB CREATION**

**28 MAY 2019**

**EEMBAXU VILLAGE  
OHANGWENA REGION**

**Director of Ceremonies;**

**Honourable Usko Nghaamwa, Governor of Ohangwena Region;**

**Honourable Councillors Present;**

**Traditional Leaders Present;**

**Workshop Facilitator;**

**Distinguished Invited Guests;**

**Members of the Media**

The topic that we are discussing today, namely, (**“To define the role of leadership and community in water management and the possible regional economic approach in creating jobs from natural (water) resources”**) is very important. However, we need to approach this topic by “thinking out of the Box” because strategies and plans to be deployed cannot be done within the normal conventional methods and should not be business as usual. The community based water management approach should be adopted, as it allows the community under the able leadership of the local and regional leaders to take the lead in the management of the water resources.

This approach inculcates in the members of the community a sense of ownership, participation and responsibility in the management of their resources. The Local Government together with Communities should take the lead in the identification of the community needs, and the strategies that need to be deployed to address and resolve these needs. This means that the community under the regional leadership should not entirely rely on the central government in the management of their resources.

**Director of Ceremonies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Decentralization of certain functions to the regions should be capitalized so that communities are empowered to manage resources themselves and create ownership and pride. The regions, especially, Ohangwena region has done that in the past e.g. debushing and clearance of roads (Eenhana- Okongo Road). This strategy can also be applied to the management of the water resources as it will create a sense of pride, patriotism and ownership of resources, and assist in curbing water wastage, avoid vandalism, and prevent intentional contamination of water sources.

Community involvement in the development of water infrastructure is better than a situation where the work is profit orientated. For example, the contractors who construct water infrastructure are driven to make the highest profit and therefore, try by all means to save on materials, and in the process the quality of work is compromised and as a result the economic life span of the infrastructure reduced.

**Director of Ceremonies;**

Research shows that the Ohangwena aquifer has massive water resources, which is estimated at approximately 20 billion cubic metres. This means that members of the community in Ohangwena Region and beyond could derive a lot of benefits from the Ohangwena Water Aquifer once it is fully developed.

For this reason the Regional Leadership should act proactively and already take the lead to engage the community and build local capacity in order to position communities in preparation for the exploitation and usage of the water resources from this aquifer. In this case, they should already identify business activities that could be introduced, type of infrastructure that could be put in place for industrialization purposes, such as the construction of water canals that could be used to support the establishment of business enterprises, for example, horticulture production, fodder production, brickmaking, activities that could create jobs.

In addition, the Regional leadership could also consider deploying strategies to address the management and the saving of water from this aquifer that could aim at the construction of storage facilities, adoption of appropriate and water efficient irrigation technologies and methods and the cultivation of high value crops.

**Director of Ceremonies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

People often complain that they cannot engage in business activities because of lack of resources. However, there are families resources, though limited, but which are not properly utilized. It is therefore incumbent upon the leadership of the region to educate and sensitize communities to use their incomes, grants and pension more efficiently, effectively and wisely in order to complement their incomes. In addition, communities should also be sensitized and encouraged to be more productive and avoid reliance on free handouts of food. In this regards, the local leaders could introduce projects such as, Food for Work and where possible cash for work.

Furthermore, the community leaders should avoid the “Silo Mentality” and instead adopt holistic, inclusive, regional development strategies. It is observed that currently Regional Councillors only look and concentrate on their respective Constituencies. It is therefore important for the regional leadership to adopt a helicopter view of the whole region and address the identified hotspots in the Region, concerted, collectively and in a manner that enhances sustainability.

In conclusion, I would like to wish you fruitful deliberation.

With this few remarks, I now declare this workshop officially open.

**THANK YOU**