

1. INTRODUCTION

The mandate of the ministry of Regional and Local Government Housing and Rural Development is to Coordinate and manage Decentralization in Namibia. This entails the transferring powers to Regional Councils, Local Authorities and Traditional Authorities structures, providing advisory services, technical support and capacity building. This involves developing policy guidelines and procedures, evaluating institutional readiness of Line Ministries and Sub-National Government and legislation harmonisation as well as introduce good governance principles; facilitating the recognition of traditional communities and ensure compliance with provisions of the laws/legislations. It also ensures adequate Legislation, Policies and standards for Sub-National structure. It coordinates and facilitating the Rural Development activities, policies and legislation to ensure sustainable rural livelihoods, reduction of poverty, improve living condition and shelter, mitigate rural-urban migration and ensuring appropriate town planning and establishment; infrastructure development and land use management.

1.1 Main strategic activities¹ completed or in progress contributing to the achievement of the target/s.

The main strategic activities or objective are:

1. **To promote Good Governance at sub national level.** This activity will be measured by a number of various performance indicators, focusing on the desired output. Some of the output are as follows, improved legal frameworks of Local and Regional Councils, amendment of the Local Authority Act, Regional Council Act, Disaster Risk Management policy,
2. **Facilitate the provision of quality, affordable and adequate housing for low income groups.** This activity is measure by a number of houses constructed through Build Together Program, Single quarter transformation and number of serviced plot available to construct houses. It has now dissolved into the new concept called Mass Housing Initiative Programe.
3. **Improve the livelihood of rural communities.** It can be measured with various performance indicators. The output is focusing more on the improve the lives of rural communities by creating employment opportunities through various rural project. Capacitating the small and medium enterprises through micro-finance scheme and support of poor rural farmers.
4. **Effectively Coordination of Decentralization Implementation process.** This can be measured by annual review workshop conducted, conducted of awareness session and monitoring the decentralized phase and activities.

¹ Main strategic activities are those activities that contribute to the achievement of the O/M/A high-level strategy (ministerial targets) and implemented during the period under review by their respective main divisions.

THE DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY ARE:

01 Rural Development

The objectives for this programme are:

- To coordinates and facilitating the Rural Development activities,
- Draft of policies and legislation to ensure sustainable rural livelihoods,
- Ensure reduction of poverty; improve living condition and shelter,
- Mitigate rural-urban migration

The main activities that fall under the programme are:

- Social Infrastructure Services Development Support
- Development of Appropriate Technology through Rural Development Centres
- Statistic and Research
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Rural Youth Employment Schemes
- Food Security and Nutrition
- One Region One Initiative

Main Output to Achieve Ministerial target in the reporting year

- Sufficient financial resources
- Employment of rural communities
- Use of appropriate technologies
- Upliftment of people livelihood

Achievement

- Establishment of Rural Development Steering Committee
- Review and publish Micro-Finance guideline
- Conduct two (2) capacity building training on food/cash for work programme

Constraints

- Insufficient financial resources to undertake the construction of rural development center
- Lack of technical skills to conduct research for appropriate technologies
- Accessibility of rural areas due to terrain
- Level of literacy of the rural communities
- Shortage of transport to conduct monitoring and evaluation
- Higher rate of unemployment at rural areas

02: Support Planning, Infrastructure and Housing

The objectives for this programme are:

- Ensuring appropriate town planning and establishment; infrastructure development and land use management.
- Provision of low and affordable housing

The main activities that fall under the programme are:

- Social housing
- Promotion of local Building materials
- Urban/rural housing loans
- Single quarter transformation
- Community Based Organisation
- Planning ,Surveying and Design
- Provision of infrastructure in Regions

Main Output to Achieve Ministerial target in the reporting year

- Construction 10,800 houses per year under Mass Housing Initiative Programme
- Transformation of Single Quarters
- Finalizations urban planning bill in order to speed up land delivery
- Provision of affordable housing

Constraints

- Limited financial resources for houses construction under Mass Housing Programme
- Absence of the Project Implementation Plan (PIP) for Mass Housing Programme
- Lack of serviced land
- Limited capacity for the implementation of capital projects
- Cost of building material
- Lack of capacity to implement capital projects
- Unavailability of serviced land
- Lack of technical capacity (Technical people) in Planning and Technical services

Achievements

- Appointment of consultants for capital projects
- Develop a 5 – year sectoral execution plan on housing
- Appointment of consultant to conduct housing need assessment

03: Enhancement of Public Participation

The objectives for this programme are:

- To Coordinate and manage Decentralization in Namibia

The main activities that fall under this programme are:

- Accelerate Decentralization
- Institutional Capacity for Decentralization Forum
- Inter-Government Transfer System
- Decentralization system development
- Improved Information and Communication Strategies

Main Output to Achieve Ministerial target in the reporting year

- Decentralize power to the sub –National levels

Constraints

- Unfunded mandates
- Lack of office accommodation at regional levels
- Lack of political support to decentralization
- Reluctance of line ministries to decentralize
- Lack of office accommodation at regional level to accommodate decentralized activities
- Unfunded mandates (decentralized of activities without funds)

Achievements

- Submission of the amendment Bill to Regional Council Act,1992 to Government Attorney
- Develop the training manual for CDC (Constituency Development Committee)

04: Regional and Local Government and Traditional Authorities Coordination

The objectives for this programme are:

- Enhancement of Regional Council and Local Authorities administration
- Subsidy for Fire Brigade services
- Compensation for loss of communal land
- Local Economic development
- Training of Traditional Leaders
- Annual meeting of Council of Traditional Leaders
- Investigating Committee on Tribal Disputes

The main activities that fall under this programme are:

- Procurement of fire trucks for all Local Authorities
- Hosting of Local Economic conference
- Investigation of tribal disputes
- Hosting the meeting of Council of Traditional Leaders
- Compensation for loss of communal land

Main Output to Achieve Ministerial target in the reporting year

- Local Economic development conference
- Compensation of communal land
- Proclamation of local authorities
- Transferring of funds for construction of fire stations

Constraints

- Limited funding for compensation hamper the relocation process and eventual delay the implementation of capital projects
- Self-sustainability of local authorities
- Too many application for traditional authorities recognition
- Endless tribal disputes
- Unsustainability of some of Local Authorities
- Too many tribal disputes
- Unending of application of recognition by traditional authorities
- Lack of capacity at sub national level
- Insufficient fund for compensation of homesteads due to town expansions

Achievement

- Compensate of 1800 homesteads
- Conduct legal training for the newly elected Local Authorities Councils (Otjinene and Bukalo)
- Develop SME manufacturing support Programme (LED)
- Hosting of the 5th Local Economic Development Conference
- Investigation of tribal disputes of Otjikaoko and Swartbooi Traditional Authorities
- Appointment of Investigation committee for Zeraua Traditional Authority

05: Policy Supervision and support services

The objectives for this programme are:

- Provide policy supervision
- To provide efficient administrative and support services
- To provide ICT infrastructure to sub nationals
- to provide assurance to the Accounting Officer on the adequacy of controls within all financial and operating systems.

The main activities that fall under this programme are:

- Policy supervision
- Coordination and support services
- Risk management
- Acquisition of IT equipment and Systems
- Governor support

Main Output to Achieve Ministerial target in the reporting year

- **Policy supervision**

The main purpose of this programme is to provide policy supervision and administrative support to the activities of the Ministry.

- **Coordination and support services**

The main purpose of this activity is to provide administrative support to the vote's programmes and to ensure proper financial management, human resources management, optimal deployment of other resources and facilitating the training and capacity building programmes. It also ensure adherence to governance issues such as recruitment, development of strategic plan and production of annual and operational reports. It focus on the general administration of the ministry such as procurement, transport, and finance.

- **Risk management**

This activity entails the identification of the risk areas and devising mechanism aimed at managing or eliminating identifies risks. It further entails review of internal control function and develop internal audit framework for the Ministry.

- **Acquisition of IT equipment and Systems**

This activity deals with the acquisition and maintenance of IT equipment and systems of the Ministry and Regional Councils, and provision of IT support and installation if system. It also involves monitoring of IT infrastructure that support the utilization of all systems at the sub –National level

Achievements

- Development of Annual plan
- Conducting the Regional training on Financial management with all Regions
- Filled 5 vacant position (on going due to high staff turnover)

Constraints

- Bureaucracy in the recruitment process
- Shortage of personnel in critical division(Finance and Planning)
- Shortage of vehicles
- Shortage of office space for the Governors