



**Official announcement statement  
By the  
Honourable Benitha Imbamba  
Chairperson of ERONGO REGIONAL COUNCIL:  
ON 3rd February 2023**

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**OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, STATEMENT BY  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE ERONGO REGIONAL COUNCIL AT  
THE 1<sup>st</sup> ORDINARY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING OF 2023,  
THE 326<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THE 3<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 AT THE ERONGO  
REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 10H00.**

**Honourable Governor**  
**Honourable Councillors**  
**Acting Chief Regional Officer**  
**All Management Cadre**  
**Distinguish guests**  
**Members of the media**  
**Members of the public**  
**Ladies and gentlemen**

Good morning

It is my distinct honour to stand here today and welcome you all to this August House, and indeed to the first of the Ordinary Regional Council's meeting of 2023. And let me wish you all the best and prosperous 2023, the year of revival.

I would like to cement on what His Excellency, Dr Hage G Geingob, the President of the Republic of Namibia alluded to call on all Namibians irrespective of race, colour or political affiliation "to look to the future with renewed hope and optimism. It is time for our collective revival to shape our future, one step at a time, as we march towards shared prosperity."

I would not have said better than my leader. I would like to re-emphasise President's message, and urge the Erongo Region inhabitants to look at the future with hope and optimism. Let us look at what we have done in the past and improve on what we have set ourselves. Not only for ourselves but for the livelihood of our people in Erongo Region.

Honourable Governor  
Fellow Honourable Councillors  
Esteemed media

We are indeed starting the year of revival on the positive note. I am a proud Chairperson and would like to announced that according to Customer Service Charter Audit 2022/23 undertaken by the Office of the Prime Minister, Erongo Regional Council was rated as the best Regional Council in terms of Customer Service Charter development and implementation. We scoped the first place among the Regional Councils in the country, and the 3rd place in the overall Government agencies. We are proud Erongo Regional Council. Well done Team Erongo. Teamwork at it best. Although we have financial and human resources challenges, our technocrats are never deterring in service delivery. I am privileged to be the Chairperson of such vibrant work force.

During August 2022, the Regional Councillors undertook a retreat to brainstorm on projects and to draw up a roadmap for regional development more especially in the respective Constituencies. It was also important to create and enhance stakeholders' relations with it counter parts in Oshana Region. At these intervention, the importance of building positive stakeholder relations and enhancement of collaboration were highlighted. Thus the Regional Councillors agreed to with your permission, Madam Acting Chief Regional Officer, embark on the following activities in the next few weeks:

- Build and maintain stakeholder's relations: - this will include consultative meetings with
  - Honourable Governor, and Local Authorities
  - Chief Regional Officer
  - Traditional Authorities and the Communities

- Re-strategies priority projects within the communities in consultation with the Erongo Regional Council Management; and
- To create awareness on the activities of the Erongo Regional Council in order to solicitate collaboration with business community especially the mining and fishing sector.

A full detailed report will be submitted to the next Council meeting for endorsement, so that we can start with the various activities and programmes. In the meantime, I would urge Regional Councillors to start planning their activities and liaise with the Office of the Chief Regional Officer and the Public Relations Office to facilitate these interventions and creating enabling platforms for access of information as per Cabinet Directive dated 18th October 2022 on the Communicating for Effective Government Communication Strategy.

I therefore call upon the technocrats embark on the sensitization programme on the Communicating for Effective Government Community Strategy within the Council as a matter of urgency. Because there are so many activities taking place within the Region, but these activities are not evenly disseminated.

Honourable Councillors

Ladies and gentlemen

I am pleased to share with you Honourable Regional Councillors, that we have already commenced with the anticipated programmes.

The Acting Chief Regional Officer, and myself had our first meeting last week to discuss the roadmap on strengthening the relationship between

Governor's office and ERC on programmes and activities. These will be regular meetings, where we will share progress on programmes and activities. The media and the public at large will be informed about the activities as they unfold.

Honourable Councillors  
Ladies and gentlemen

On the regional development: I would like to share with you few pointers of greater concern in the region:

- **Unfavourable working conditions of workforce:** We have noted with concern that there are still some companies in the region that are exercising unfair and unfavourable working conditions at their work places. This cannot be tolerated anymore. I am sending out firm warning to those companies being it mining, industrial or otherwise, who are maltreating their workers, that we will not leave no stone unturned and we will call on investigators and labour and health inspectors to monitor and assess working conditions on regular basis.
- **Mass rooming of mines with the region.** We are cognizant that mining licences and rights are being issued by the Ministry of Mines and Energy on the national level, but these companies are conducting mining activities within our jurisdictions. And when our workers are treated unfairly, we in respective Constituencies are the ones they run or turn to. I will therefore call upon all the stakeholders to adhere to the conditions of agreement or conditions of issuing of such licenses.

Honourable Councillors  
Ladies and gentlemen

With these few words, let's go out and serve the Erongo Region inhabitants and the Namibian nation at large. Let's be consistent and transparent at all times. May the God Almighty bless us all.

***Thank you very much for listening.***